

## Thatcher snub for Gibraltar killings probe

### Amnesty investigation 'a stunt without status'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is to send a sharp reply to Amnesty International after Easter in which she will refuse its demand for information about the killing of three unarmed IRA bombers in Gibraltar.

A furious Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday condemned the London-based human rights group over its request for more details of the shootings. She agreed with a Conservative MP that it was a "stunt without status".

To cheer from Conservative MPs she told the Commons that she hoped Amnesty had some concern for the more than 2,000 people

murdered by the IRA since 1969.

She said that the Gibraltar inquest on the deaths on March 6 of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage would be the "proper occasion" for the matter to be examined.

Mrs Thatcher will take a similar line in her reply to the organization, which has a history of uneasy relations with British governments.

She told colleagues yesterday that it was disgraceful that the letter to her had been written in such terms.

Three members of Amnesty's international secretariat

History of clashes ..... 2  
Parliament ..... 4

are to investigate the killings. In the letter to the Prime Minister it said that it was the Government's responsibility to provide a "full and public account of the circumstances surrounding this incident".

The organization said: "There are a number of circumstances which suggest that the three were deliberately targeted by the security forces and killed without challenge, and that no attempt had been made to capture them".

It said that the three guerrillas were watched for weeks while planning a bombing attack, but no attempt was made to arrest them during that period.

Its statement quoted witnesses as saying the three were shot without warning and "that at least one of the victims, having fallen to the ground after an initial gunshot, was shot several times while lying helpless and incapacitated".

Amnesty told the Prime Minister in its letter that it was investigating to see whether there had been "extra-judicial executions".

As the storm over the investigation grew Amnesty last night denied that it had prejudged the issue. "Our letter did not specifically state that we had formed an opinion as to the nature of the events in Gibraltar. It is clear there was conflicting evidence."

In the Commons the former Conservative minister, Mr Ian Gow, asked Mrs Thatcher: "When you come to reply to the letter from Amnesty International, apparently on behalf of three terrorists mercifully now dead, will you point out that it is the organization to which these terrorists belonged which has been in massive breach of all decent standards relating to human rights?"

## Kinnock chooses his election team

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday recalled the men behind his leadership victory to ensure that the "dream ticket" of 1983 survives in 1988.

He named Mr John Smith, the shadow chancellor, and Mr Robin Cook, the social services spokesman, to head the campaign to secure his re-election and that of Mr Roy Hattersley, his running mate for deputy leader.

Mr Smith headed Mr

"Will you further point that there is to be an inquest carried out before a jury in Gibraltar and the inquiry for which Amnesty International has asked is a stunt without status?"

The Prime Minister told Mr Gow she agreed with almost every word he had said.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, vice-chairman of the backbench Northern Ireland Committee, said the Amnesty decision to investigate was deplorable. He added: "If Amnesty have any evidence it should be submitted to the coroner's court".

Amnesty reacted to the furore by saying: "We can understand that people are upset, but we hope that when the emotions die down they will see that ensuring human rights are upheld is more important".

The Government has yet to decide how the soldiers will give evidence to the inquest.

It has made clear that it will co-operate with the inquest, but its paramount concern will be that the safety of the soldiers is safeguarded and their identities protected.

The soldiers could go to Gibraltar and give evidence in camera or from behind screens. Alternatively their evidence could be taken in Britain and sent to the court in the form of affidavits.

The issue has been discussed by the special Cabinet committee which deals with terrorism under the chairmanship of Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary. It will be considered further when the coroner's request for witnesses is received.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour spokesman on home affairs, said yesterday that the Foreign Secretary had failed, in reply to his questions, to state whether the soldiers warned the suspects before opening fire.

News of the Amnesty investigation also came as a surprise to Mr Paddy McGroarty, the Belfast solicitor representing relatives of the three IRA members. Mr McGroarty said Amnesty contacted him on a "minor technical matter" connected with the case.

Joseph Coogan, aged 21, a shop assistant of Andersonstown, was remanded in custody by Belfast magistrates yesterday on charges in connection with the killing of two soldiers at an IRA funeral in West Belfast 13 days ago.

He was accused of withholding information and impeding inquiries by exchanging a pair of trousers with a suspect and then burning the bloodstained trousers.

Continued on page 24, col 5

## Kidnap victim talks his way free

By Stewart Tendler  
Crime Reporter

A wealthy Lebanese businessman was reunited with his family last night after he escaped from a gang of kidnapers who abducted him on a London street and held him ransom for £2 million in a remote country house.

Mr Ramzi Ata Dalloul is thought to have talked one of his guards into releasing him and taking him home. For a time the gang did not know he had escaped and they continued to telephone demands to his wife.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, which investigates kidnappings, was last night questioning a man. Detectives were hunting a gang of four behind the well-planned plot, which they do not believe was inspired by terrorism. All the gang are thought to be British with the exception of an Arab-speaking accomplice.

The kidnapping took place on Tuesday night after Mr Dalloul, aged 52, left his company's offices in Stanhope Gate, South Kensington, for his home in Notting Hill, about a mile away.

A few hundred yards from home, his green BMW car was rammed by another BMW. An argument began over who was to blame for the crash.

A man wearing dark blue trousers and a sweater appeared and the Mr Dalloul thought he must be a policeman. The bogus officer suggested Mr Dalloul should sit in the other car while the incident was sorted out. Once Mr Dalloul reached the car he was forced to lie on the floor of the vehicle with what seemed to be a gun at his temple.

The car drove off and, after 15 minutes, Mr Dalloul was bundled into a white van which took him to Tottenham, in Kent. He was kept handcuffed and under guard by one man in a bungalow.

Shortly before midnight on Tuesday, Mrs Saada Dalloul was telephoned and told the kidnappers wanted five million Swiss francs (£2 million). The gang remained silent for much of Wednesday, but Mr Dalloul seems to have been negotiating with his sole guard, a local builder.

The gang, unaware of what was happening, called his home at 8 pm and the demands were repeated. Forty-five minutes later Mr Dalloul rang to say he was coming home. He arrived at 11 pm with his former guard, who was detained by police. Police moved in on the bungalow early yesterday morning, but no one else was there.

The gang continued to call yesterday, making contact several times in the morning but then there was silence. They eventually must have realised something was wrong.

## Britain's first black QCs appointed

### Historic day for the new 'silks'

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The first black barristers to be appointed Queen's Counsel were among the list of new silks announced by the Lord Chancellor's Department yesterday.

The two barristers, Mr John Roberts and Mr Leonard Woodley, who are both crown court recorders, are among 57 new silks recommended by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, and approved by the Queen from a list of 280 candidates.

They join a select band of 584 working QCs out of a practising Bar of 5,642. The rank brings not only increased status but more money. Only 21 are women.

Yesterday Mr Roberts, who heads his own chambers which he set up 15 years ago at Stone's Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, said: "It is fantastic. I am very happy about the appointment. This is something one always hoped would happen."

He specializes in crime and general common law, and his clients, he says, are both black and white: his is not one of the "black ghetto" chambers. But he does say that establishing his own chambers was "the only option open to me".

A crown court recorder on the South-eastern circuit, he claims he is not only the first QC of African descent but also the first crown court recorder. Mr Roberts was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and came to Britain in the 1950s.

Mr Woodley was born in Trinidad, the son of a band leader. He came to Britain in 1960.

He joined the chambers of Sir Dingle Foot, the radical lawyer, as a pupil and always defends, never prosecutes.

Yesterday's list of silks also contains what is thought to be



Mr John Roberts, QC, yesterday after his appointment (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

## Garages' alcohol sales banned by Lords vote

By Sheila Guna, Political Staff

Petrol stations will be banned from selling alcohol under a change in the Licensing Act forced on the Government by the House of Lords.

Under the ban 150 garages in England and Wales will have to surrender the licences magistrates granted them.

The Government opposed the move because it argues there is no evidence of a link between garage sales and a rise in drink-driving offences.

Most of the garages are in rural areas without shops near by and so the garage sells basic groceries and alcohol.

But Lord Brentford, a leading campaigner against a more relaxed licensing regime, persuaded his fellow peers that garage sales undermined the Government's own efforts to prevent drink-driving.

Several MPs called for a ban

on garage sales when the Licensing Bill was in the Commons. But, as drafted, their amendment would have caught hypermarkets and shopping complexes which sold petrol as a side-line.

However Lord Brentford phrased his amendment so that only places where the sale of petrol or car maintenance

was the "primary purpose" will be caught by the ban.

He has been supported by Action on Alcohol Abuse, which states that magistrates vary considerably in their attitude to garage sales. For instance magistrates in Llanelli, Dyfed, recently granted a third licence in the town.

The Government is not expected to try to reverse the

ban when the Bill returns to the Commons.

Peers also approved an amendment to remove the present restriction on off-licences so that they can open at 8 am instead of 8.30 am, which the Government accepted.

The move, strongly backed by the Retail Consortium, gets rid of an anomaly where supermarkets can open at 8 am but not sell alcohol to its customers until 8.30 am.

Peers, including Lord Sainsbury of the supermarket family, argued that the half-an-hour gap confused and irritated shopkeepers and customers who did their shopping on their way to work.

At a previous stage the House of Lords defied the Government by deciding that



Mr Leonard Woodley, QC: Always a defence counsel.

the first simultaneous appointment of a husband and wife: Miss Ann Mallalieu, the first woman president of the Cambridge Union, who tackled the Inland Revenue over allowances for barrister's clothes; and Mr Timothy Cassel, a leading prosecutor for some years.

Full list, page 18

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## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

Today Portfolio Accumulator stands at £136,000 - or there is the weekly prize of £8,000 to be won (because the Stock Market is closed, there will be no game tomorrow or on Monday). Portfolio resumes on Tuesday, when the Accumulator fund will rise by at least £8,000.

Yesterday's winners, page 3  
Portfolio list, page 29  
Weekly list, page 28

## Pound in big rise on Mark

By David Smith  
Economics Correspondent

The pound soared strongly yesterday as dealers interpreted comments by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as meaning exchange rate ceilings had been removed.

It rose by 1.5 pence to DM3.1252, and by 1.65 pence to \$1.8855. The sterling index rose by 0.4 points to a two-year high of 78.1.

The City thinks the Chancellor, having been unwilling to remove the DM3 cap on sterling, has now accepted the need for a stronger pound. While differences in emphasis remain, the Chancellor, the Bank of England Governor and the Prime Minister have all said this week that inflation is the top priority. Lawson boost, page 25  
Comment, page 27

## Snooker drugs

Cliff Thorburn of Canada, the former world snooker champion, faces possible suspension by the game's governing body after failing to pass a drug test at the British Open in Derby last month. Page 38

## INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	9-14
Business	25-30
Sport	34-38
Architecture	19
Arts	20
Births, marriages, deaths	19
City Diary	27
Court	18
Crosswords	24, 15
Diary	16
Features	15, 21
Information	33
Law Report	17
Leading articles	17
Letters	32
Motoring	18
Obituary	4
Parliament	16
Religion	19
Soleroom	16
Science Report	17
Snow reports	23
TV & Radio	24
Weather	23
Your Own Business	31

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## Afghan withdrawal

## US pushes Zia on Kabul pact

From Michael Blayon, Washington

The US and Pakistan, after a series of telephone conversations between their leaders, are ready to present Moscow with new proposals to break the impasse over a negotiated withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

President Zia telephoned President Reagan on Wednesday and Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, the Pakistani Prime Minister, also spoke to Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State. President Reagan repeated his assurance that the US would not cut off aid to the Afghan guerrillas unless Moscow stopped aiding the Kabul Government.

President Zia agreed that the cut-offs in military aid must be symmetrical, something the Russians have so far rejected. But the US and Pakistan may now propose that the US continue to aid the rebels and allow Moscow to declare its intention of helping Kabul - maintaining sym-

metry or balance on a continued flow of weaponry rather than a cut-off on both sides.

Officials have noted that Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, did not specifically rule this out during his recent visit here. But yesterday he sharply rejected continued US military aid if Washington was to be a guarantor of any Afghan agreement.

Tass reported from Moscow yesterday that Mr Shevardnadze accused Washington of having been "far from supportive of a settlement".

Mr Shultz is eager to get a negotiated agreement on a Soviet withdrawal before the summit meeting in Moscow next month. But right-wingers in Congress are insisting that the Administration should not abandon the guerrillas and are making a cut-off of aid a controversial domestic issue - especially in the wake of the collapse of the Contras.

The Russians however have threatened to go ahead with withdrawal plans without any US role as a guarantor of an agreement. This could leave chaos behind in Afghanistan, making it difficult for Pakistan to persuade the three million Afghan refugees to return home.

One proposal is for a private US-Soviet understanding on an aid cut-off that is not linked to an Afghan-Pakistani peace settlement.

But Congress is making any deal difficult. Senator Gordon Humphrey, a right-wing Republican, accused Mr Shultz of retreating from its demand for symmetry. He also asked how any US aid - now running at about \$600 million (£322 million) a year - could reach the guerrillas if Pakistan signed the Geneva accords which would prevent it from being a conduit.

Advisers guessing, page 8

## Holiday jams as tourists gamble with weather

By David Cross

Holidaymakers seeking to beat the traditional Good Friday rush by setting out a day early last night faced long delays and queues as they went in search of the sun and the sea.

With weather forecasters predicting a cool, cloudy and showery Easter weekend over most of the country, police reported an eight-mile tailback on the M25 south of London after a mid-afternoon crash, and a five-mile queue out of Oxford when a lorry overturned on the A34 bypass near Abingdon.

A Surrey police spokesman said: "Thousands of people seem to have taken an extra day's holiday to get away to the seaside early. If they thought they were going to beat the jams, they were wrong."

As the dispute between the National

Union of Seamen and P&O European ferries dragged into its eighth week, the company said yesterday that its ships were full until April 6. A spokesman said: "Unless you have a firm reservation, don't attempt to travel."

None of its vessels were sailing from Dover to Calais, Boulogne or Zeebrugge. But P&O services from Dover to Ostend, from Portsmouth to Le Havre and

Weymouth, and on the Hoverspeed service to Calais and Boulogne.

But a spokesman said that the Dover to Calais service was fully booked and Folkestone to Boulogne ships had room for only a few foot passengers. Sally Lines said that its ferries from Ramsgate to Dunkirk would be operating normally but with limited space available.

Air travel was also busy, with flights to Belfast expected to reach near record-breaking levels. Holiday companies reported a late surge in bookings because of the ferry dispute and the give-away Budget.

A Thomson Holidays spokesman said that 7,000 reservations had been made since Budget Day, more than double last year's total of 3,000 during a similar period. Horizon said that it was sold out.

Continued on page 24, col 2

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Hospital unions turn down 4.8% pay offer

Unions representing 225,000 hospital ancillary workers have rejected a 4.8 per cent pay offer.

Mr Roger Poole, chief negotiator for the National Union of Public Employees, said the offer, which would have given increases of £4 to £5 a week, was wholly inadequate.

He said: "Two-thirds of hospital ancillary staff earn less than £120 per week. They will not tolerate another paltry increase leaving them still further adrift of other workers doing the same jobs elsewhere in the economy."

Talks with the Department of Health and Social Security, which broke off on Wednesday night, will resume next month. The unions are expected to press for a big improvement in basic rates for some of the lowest paid workers in the NHS, including domestics, porters, caterers and laundry staff.

They have lodged an eight-point claim for a flat-rate weekly rise of £14.62, which they say would give them parity with lowest-paid local authority manual workers.

Pressure on Cabinet, page 5

## Shell alert at N-site

An unexploded shell was found buried on a site used to store radioactive waste from the controversial nuclear plant at Sellafield it was disclosed yesterday. The shell — a small mortar — was found earlier this week on the storage site at Drigg, just seven miles from the west Cumbrian reprocessing plant. It was blown up on the spot by Army bomb disposal experts.

## Dearer hairdressing

Hairdressing prices are expected to rise by as much as 12 per cent from April 11 when new minimum pay scales for hairdressing staff over the age of 21 come into effect. The new wage rates set by the Hairdressing Wages Council increase the minimum hourly rate from £1.25 to £2.05 an hour. Mr Hamish Wilson, vice-president of the National Hairdressers Federation, said there had been no price increases in the past two years, but customers would still receive good value. British salons were the cheapest in the European community.

## Licensed offenders

Home Office figures released yesterday show that more than 20 per cent of life sentence prisoners released on licence in a 14-year period were reconvicted for fresh offences. But the rate of reconviction was lower than for other categories of prisoners. Between 1972 and 1986, 986 prisoners were out on licence, and 211 were reconvicted. Thirty seven committed "grave" offences and another 174 committed lesser offences.

## Insect-bite rampage

Bites by insects are believed to have caused a worker to have a seizure and damage £13,000 of high-technology machinery with an iron bar. Mr John Stadden, of Downside, Street, Somerset, was "fit and well" in a hospital isolation unit last night after workmates had to restrain him as he struck equipment on Wednesday. He was bitten while unloading a van containing boxes of Brazilian shoes at the Bullmead warehouse of the shoe firm, Clarks last Friday. All the workers concerned and every shoebox in the load had been checked and found clear.

## Rolls warden cleared

A traffic warden was cleared yesterday of causing £750 damage to a Nigerian king's gold Rolls-Royce after a dispute over a parking ticket. A jury at Southwark Crown Court, south London, found Mr Terence Spurr, aged 20, of Bushgrove Road, Dagenham, Essex, not guilty of causing criminal damage to the car. Mr Spurr said that after he gave the car a ticket for being double-parked in Bedford Row, Holborn, central London, last year the chauffeur of King Sijuwede II of Nigeria drove at him, bruising his leg. He said he hit the bonnet "in anger" with his fist.

## Amnesty has history of clashes with Whitehall

By David Sapsted

Amnesty International is prepared to hear IRA evidence as it investigates the deaths in Gibraltar of three terrorists shot by the Special Air Service Regiment.

The human rights group said yesterday: "Whether we accept any such evidence as valid is another matter. Anyone can submit evidence to us but it is judged to strict standards and subjected to thorough scrutiny before it is accepted."

British governments and Amnesty have clashed frequently in the past over Northern Ireland. Ten years ago the Labour government set up an inquiry after the group alleged that the Royal Ulster Constabulary had beaten and mistreated suspected terrorists.

Such suggestions have persisted: the organization's 1987 report reiterated concern over allegations of mistreatment as well as criticizing judicial procedures in the province, particularly no-jury trials, and the "inadequacy of investigations" into fatal shootings by the RUC.

Amnesty, based in London, has demanded a full inquiry into the RUC's alleged shoot-to-kill policy and has also recently decided to look at the case of the six men convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings.

Other issues have strained relations between Whitehall and Amnesty's international secretariat housed in offices in Easton Street, not far from the West End. As far back as 1966, a report accused British soldiers in Aden of using

torture; the 1984 report expressed concern over the arrest of miners and their treatment by police during the pit strike, and, in February of this year, Amnesty called for a government inquiry into claims that statements from youths who faced charges concerning the killing of PC Keith Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm disturbances had been extracted under pressure.

The decision to investigate the Gibraltar killings was approved by Amnesty's deputy general secretary Mr Larry Cox, formerly an American journalist. The proposal for the inquiry originated from four researchers who concentrate on cases in English-speaking parts of Europe.

No British or Irish members of Amnesty's 250 staff were involved

in the decision which was approved by the head of the European region, the head of research, the legal office and, finally, Mr Cox. Normally, the general secretary, Mr Ian Martin, would have made the final decision on an investigation but he was debarred because he is a British national.

The two key researchers in the Gibraltar investigation, who are expected to travel to the islands on the IRA bombers, are a Canadian and a Dutch researcher.

Amnesty said: "They have no political axe to grind. They will approach this investigation as they do all others — more like investigative journalists than dedicated campaigners."

At present, the European section is involved in a host of investigations,

its longest-running one concentrating on prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union.

In western Europe, its current inquiries centre on the treatment of conscientious objectors in Austria, West Germany and Greece; asylum procedures in the UK, France, Sweden and the Netherlands; allegations of torture in Italy; claims of ill-treatment by prisoners in Spain and Norway; and the fate of Kurdish refugees in Sweden.

The Gibraltar investigation is based on "circumstances which suggest that the three were deliberately targeted by the security forces and killed without challenge", Amnesty said. If that was found not to be the case, the inquiry would be dropped and no report issued.

## Humiliation for Willis as Ford unions ignore plea

By Roland Rudd

Ford unions delivered a humiliating defeat to Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, when they voted overwhelmingly yesterday not to give the guarantees Ford of America was looking for to build a plant at Dundee.

Mr Don Sherman, Ford of America's public affairs spokesman in Detroit, said the 36 to 10 union vote "reconfirmed our decision to cancel the plant". He confirmed that the plant would now definitely be built outside Britain. He said: "This is the final chapter."

Mr Willis, who flew to Detroit with engineering union leaders last week to meet Mr Frank Macher, general manager of Ford's electrical and electronics division, asked the National Joint Negotiating Committee to "accept the single-union deal under the terms of the AEU agreement".

He told the union leaders, representing Ford's 32,000 manual workers, that the company would only reconsider its decision to cancel a £40 million electronics factory at Dundee if they "confirmed that they will neither impede its establishment nor block its products".

However, representatives of the Transport and General Workers' Union, made clear their unequivocal support for Mr Ron Todd, the general secretary, who has consistently opposed the deal.

Mr Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated

Engineering Union, said: "I am bitterly disappointed, although not surprised. The fact of the matter is that 1,000 jobs have been lost; 1,000 people remain unemployed in Dundee because of the trade union movement."

Mr Laird criticized Mr Todd and Mr Ken Gill, joint general secretary of the white-collar manufacturing, science and finance union, which also voted against the deal.

"We have lost the opportunity to be in the forefront of new technology in the car industry because of the spurious principles of those opposing the deal. The MSF and TGWU have never negotiated better wages or conditions for their members than the AEU."

Ford union representatives said the single-union deal did not come under the blue-book agreement, which regulates the national terms and conditions for Ford's 22 British plants.

Mr Gill denied that he or Mr Todd were against single-union agreements. He said their opposition centred on wages and conditions.

● The greenfield site on the edge of Dundee, where the Ford plant was to have been built, was sown with barley yesterday. Mr Stuart Stark, a farmer, who rents the field from the Scottish Development Agency, said he was prepared to lose the harvest if the land was required.

## Aspel finds a new life



Michael Aspel is to take over Eamonn Andrews' role as host of *This Is Your Life* in a move which will make him Britain's highest paid broadcaster.

As he signed a three-year *This Is Your Life* contract, Mr Aspel also signed a new three-year deal with London Weekend Television to net him earnings of more than £1 million while the contracts last — and putting him ahead of Terry Wogan as television's biggest earner.

Eamonn Andrews, who died in November, had presented more than 800 episodes of the programme since it began on BBC Television in the 1950s.

*This Is Your Life* was revived in 1968 by

Thames who bought it from the BBC. Eamonn and his big red book were last seen by viewers earlier this year in a series including repeats of classic programmes and three shows recorded before his death.

The deal will allow Mr Aspel, aged 55, to continue his chat show *Aspel and Company* and the *Six O'Clock Show* for London Weekend Television.

The shortlist of top names tipped for the job included Terry Wogan and Noel Edmonds. Des O'Connor, Michael Parkinson, David Jacobs and Gloria Hunniford were also reported to be in the running.

## Fresh setback for seamen

## Sealink strike poll refused

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the National Union of Seamen suffered their second defeat in a week in the High Court yesterday, when a judge refused to allow them to hold a strike ballot among their 1,400 Sealink members.

After a two-hour hearing in private, Mr Justice Lately ruled that company assurances about the immediate future of union jobs at the ferry ports effectively meant that in the eyes of the law there was no trade dispute, and therefore a strike ballot would be unlawful.

Meanwhile, the two sides in the P&O ferry dispute at Dover are to meet for a further round of talks at the offices of Acas, the conciliation service, this morning.

Last Friday, Mr Justice Michael Davies had ordered the union to abandon a national ballot because the union was not in dispute with shipping lines which would have been affected by a strike.

The union executive subsequently called off the strike ballot.

The executive decided to make yesterday's application after comments by Mr James Sherwood, chairman of Sea Containers, Sealink's parent company.

He reportedly said Sealink would also seek reductions in ferry crews if rivals P&O won its dispute over manning, which has disrupted cross-Channel traffic for eight weeks.

Today's meeting to attempt to resolve the P&O dispute comes after an invitation to the two sides by Acas, which felt that now the complication of legal actions brought by P&O over a proposed national strike ballot were out of the way, negotiations should be resumed.

On Wednesday night P&O announced details of proposals worked out by Acas last week, which the company was prepared to accept. They included a number of concessions to the seamen's demands.

The 2,300 P&O employees based at Dover have been on strike for eight weeks in protest at the company's plans to change manning levels.

## Air fares cut by BA to combat 'dumping'

By Harvey Elliot  
Air Correspondent

British Airways is dropping the price of transatlantic air fares in an attempt to compete with "bucket shop" sales of cut-price tickets.

New Spring Stateside Saver fares go on sale today for 17 destinations in the United States from London and two from Manchester.

They cut up to £204 off a round trip and, for example, reduce the price of an Apex fare to New York to £299 from £503, to Chicago to £339 from £492, to San Francisco to £439 from £576; from Manchester to Orlando the fare is reduced to £339 from £540.

They will carry a seven-day advanced booking requirement and must be paid and ticketed at the time of booking. They will be available throughout Britain.

BA has been angered by airlines, especially from America, "dumping" spare tickets in bucket shops which are then sold at cut-price rates, and the new package is designed to combat that.

The news of the fare cuts came as BA took delivery yesterday of the first of 10 Airbus Industrie twin-engine 152-seater A320 aircraft, to be used from the end of next month on some European scheduled flights and on charter operations.

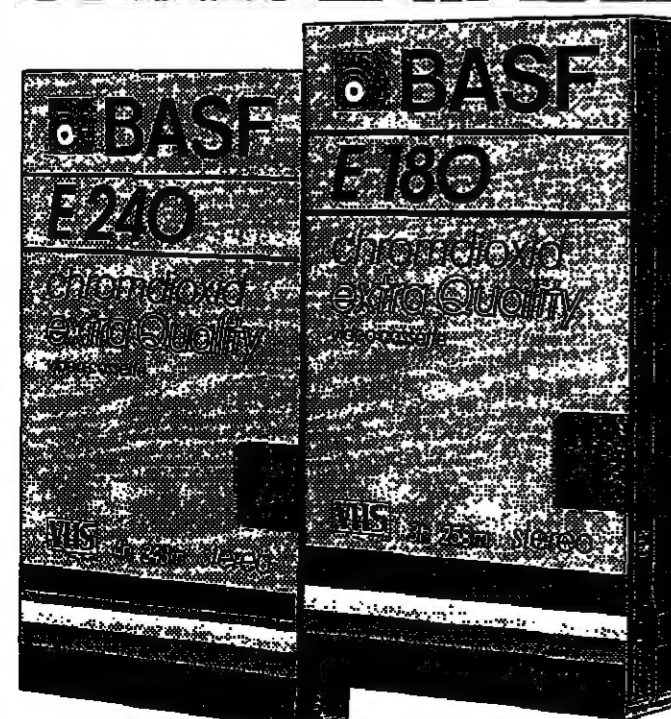
The aircraft arrived at Gatwick airport yesterday from Toulouse, and it is thought that orders worth up to £1.5 billion for Airbus Industrie may follow.

Officials were finalizing plans to hold detailed talks on the purchase of up to thirty more A320s, and BA is considering another Airbus aircraft, the long-range four-engine A340, as a main contender to replace 39 old and noisy BAC 1-11s and 17 TriStars as well as nine DC10s formerly owned by B-Cal. The A340 will be ready for delivery in 1992, and BA is thought likely to order 20.

It was disclosed yesterday that BA is studying another Airbus product, the A330.

**Sealing the Times**  
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## Hurricane blew away boy's fortune

By Craig Seton

A schoolboy who lost £20,000 gambling on the Stock Exchange said yesterday that a hurricane blew away his chances of making a fortune.

Christopher Peach, aged 16, of Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, said his share dealings had made a profit of almost £200,000 when disaster struck. He was speaking after Derbyshire police had told him he would not be prosecuted for deception for his calamitous financial activities, which began with a £150 birthday present.

Christopher, who is in the fifth form at Highfield Comprehensive School, Matlock, said his potential fortune was lost when the hurricane which struck southern England last October stopped him telephoning his stockbrokers.

Christopher, one of four children, said that he was spending £35 a week making calls from a telephone kiosk at his school to his brokers.

"I intended to sell all my shares before the Stock Exchange crash to buy into the BP flotation. Unfortunately the hurricane knocked out so many phone lines that I could not raise my broker until Black Monday and by that time the shares had gone through the floor."

"A few days later I was convinced it was just a hiccup and that a rally would put it right. I bought more shares but was hit by another slump."

"The decision not to prosecute has taken a great weight off my mind," he said. "Best of all, I should now be able to pursue the chance of a career as a

stockbroker or fund manager. If I had been convicted of anything connected with share dealing, that might not have been possible."

Derbyshire police investigated the boy's share dealings but the Crown Prosecution Service recommended that no action should be taken for possible offences of attempting to obtain services by deception or obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception.

Stockbrokers who dealt with him said he had successfully passed himself off as a 19-year-old businessman.

His parents, Leonard and Vera Peach, feared they might have to sell their house to pay his debts. They were not available for comment yesterday.

## Inquiry demanded into Ryan's gun licences

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

An MP is demanding a public inquiry into the Hungerford massacre after written parliamentary answers raised doubts about the way Michael Ryan obtained his firearms certificates.

The answers to about seventy detailed questions tabled five weeks ago by Mr William Ross, Ulster Unionist MP for East Londonderry, were released yesterday.

Mr Ross intends to table further questions and to raise the matter at the report stage of the Government's post-Hungerford legislation.

"I believe every detail of the whole affair should be dragged out into public view," he said. "The object of an inquiry would be to find out exactly what went wrong in public

procedures that allowed this man to get possession of these firearms."

Mr Ross also accused the Thames Valley Police of sloppiness over its investigation of Ryan and provision of information to the Home Office.

The answers, from Mr Douglas Hogg, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, raise doubts about whether Ryan was a probationary member of the Dunmore Shooting Club in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, long enough to qualify for the full membership needed to obtain a firearms certificate.

Mr Ross said he was "amazed at the very high speed with which Ryan's various applications appear to have been handled."

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Check on pop music air time

By Brian Oakes  
National Editor

Derbyshire police investigated the boy's share dealings but the Crown Prosecution Service recommended that no action should be taken for possible offences of attempting to obtain services by deception or obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception.

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His parents, Leonard and Vera Peach, feared they might have to sell their house to pay his debts. They were not available for comment yesterday.

Move to go



## Social workers in child sex trial all admit criminal past

Three social workers accused of having sexual intercourse with a girl of 14 in council care all had criminal records, a jury was told yesterday.

Tony Graham, aged 41, who denies 11 charges, including conspiring with and inciting others to have unlawful intercourse, has admitted being sentenced to nine years for robbery.

Grant Orris, aged 25, yesterday disclosed that he had been in trouble with the police between the ages of 15 and 17 for burglary and had been placed on probation.

John Gillespie, aged 37, said that he had been in detention centres and borstal for offences of theft and assault.

The prosecution at Maidstone Crown Court has alleged that Mr Graham, of Charles Street, Strood, Kent, seduced the girl while she was in care at the family support centre at Chatham, where he was employed.

Mr Robert Fischel, for the prosecution, said that Mr Graham was well aware that the girl was of an age where she could not consent, although there was no suggestion that she was not a willing participant in what had occurred.

Mr Fischel added: "She was simply being used by Graham for the sexual gratification of himself and his friends."

Another girl has said that he had sexual intercourse with her when she was 15.

The younger girl has told the jury of a session of intercourse she had with Mr Graham and Mr Gillespie, of Silverdale Avenue, Minster, Sheppey.

She also said that Mr Graham urged Mr Orris, of Marylebone Grove, Dulwich, south London, to seduce her. The girl added that Mr Graham once looked on while five men went into a bedroom one after another to perform sexual acts with her.

All three defendants have strenuously denied the allegations.

Mr Graham, who has said that he was brought up in "the rough end" of Merseyside, has admitted having been sent to detention centres and borstal and been "right through the system from start to finish."

He said that he had decided to make a fresh start the day before he received the nine-year sentence.

Mr Graham told the jury: "On the day before I was due to be sentenced for the robbery one of my co-defendants committed suicide in an adjoining cell."

"I realized there and then it was a tragic waste of his life and that all the things that had brought him to this applied to me."

"I was determined to change things and spend all my time in prison doing courses and examinations."

"On my release I was offered the job of social

worker and was told the type of life I had led was identical to that being led by the kids I was being asked to look after and that it would be certainly helpful to them if I could use my experiences of life to stop them making the same mistakes."

He applied to Kent County Council for a job as a car mechanic but after long interviews, in which he disclosed full details of his past, he said he was offered the job as a social worker because it was thought his experiences would enable him to understand the problems of delinquent children.

In evidence yesterday he said the girl's stories were "total fabrication". Mr Graham added: "Anyone who works as I did with young girls in care is in danger of being in my position."

Mr Orris and Mr Gillespie have also described the girls' stories as fabrication.

Miss Alison Vale, a social worker with whom Mr Graham was living at the time of the alleged offences and the mother of their two-year-old child, said he was "a great charmer".

Miss Vale told the jury she left Mr Graham because she could not trust him after he had admitted to her that he was having an affair with another social worker at the centre where he worked.

The trial was adjourned until Tuesday.

### Motorway speeding

## 400 trapped in video blitz

By Rodney Cowton and David Cross

Four hundred drivers have been caught by speed detectors exceeding the 50 mph limit on a contraflow along the M6 and M61 which police describe as one of Britain's most dangerous stretches of motorway.

And on the A1 in Cambridgeshire, more than 600 drivers made illegal U-turns in a 12-hour period, a video survey has found.

Most speed limits at contraflows on motorways are only advisory, but 50 mph mandatory limits are increasingly being used.

It is expected that Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, will next week announce that a mandatory limit is to be imposed on all contraflows.

On the three-mile contraflow with a mandatory limit near Preston, Lancashire, police have adopted an unprecedentedly tough policy since the beginning of March.

Police said that 78 vehicles had been stopped, and the drivers were expected to

appear before magistrates on April 25.

A further 330 had been observed, but not stopped, breaking the limit by police using speed detectors and sometimes unmarked cars.

Many of the 330 would not have been aware that they had been detected, until they received notices at their homes telling them.

Fifty-four people have died in two-and-a-half years on a 40-mile stretch of the M6 and M61, in which the contraflow is located.

Mr Brian Johnson, Chief Constable of Lancashire, started his campaign about three weeks ago when surveys found that up to 84 per cent of drivers were ignoring the 50 mph limit, some of them doing 80 mph.

In the area immediately after the contraflow, where the speed restriction still applied, virtually all drivers had exceeded the limit.

Police said that although the contraflow was equipped with television monitors they had

not been used for enforcing the speed limit.

In the Cambridgeshire survey a video, made by the county council to persuade the Department of Transport to make a 20-mile section on the A1 safer for local traffic, shows that many drivers are turning the wrong way down the fast lane to get to their turning and most are exceeding the 70 mph speed limit most of the time.

"Illegal U-turns are stupid and made even more dangerous by the speed at which vehicles are travelling", Mr Adrian Cumber, founder and organizer of the A1 Action Committee, said yesterday.

"Forty foot long articulated lorries are using the gaps to turn round, blocking the fast lanes of both carriageways. That can, and has been, fatal."

During the past three years an estimated 30 people have been killed in nearly 500 accidents along that section of the A1 north of Huntingdon.

Most of the accidents have taken place at the 130 central reservation crossing points.

### Check on pop music air time

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

The Government yesterday came to the aid of pop music lovers who believe that their favourite records are not played often enough on independent radio stations.

The stations have been complaining about the level of royalties charged by the record industry for records played over the air and about the restrictions placed on playing time as a condition for allowing the records to be broadcast.

Yesterday Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced that certain practices in the collective licensing of public performance and broadcasting rights were therefore being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The commission will report on whether it is in the public interest for the record companies, as owners of copyright, to assign their public performance and broadcast rights to a collective licensing body and for those bodies to restrict the number of broadcasts. It will also rule on royalties.

### Hurd adviser for satellite TV group

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A special adviser to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is leaving the Home Office next month to join British Satellite Broadcasting, which is launching four national television services next year.

Mr Edward Bickham, aged 31, will be head of external affairs with the direct broadcast satellite venture. He will be responsible for regulatory and policy matters at national and European level.

Mr Bickham has advised Mr Hurd on all Home Office policies including, until recently, broadcasting.

He worked for Mr James Prior, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, from 1983 and became special adviser to Mr Hurd when he took over the portfolio and subsequently followed him to the Home Office.

Ministerial special advisers do not have access to information about individual companies or any influence on the letting of contracts. They do not need the clearance required by senior Civil Servants who join a company operating in the same sphere as their former Whitehall duties.

Mr Anthony Simmonds-Goo-

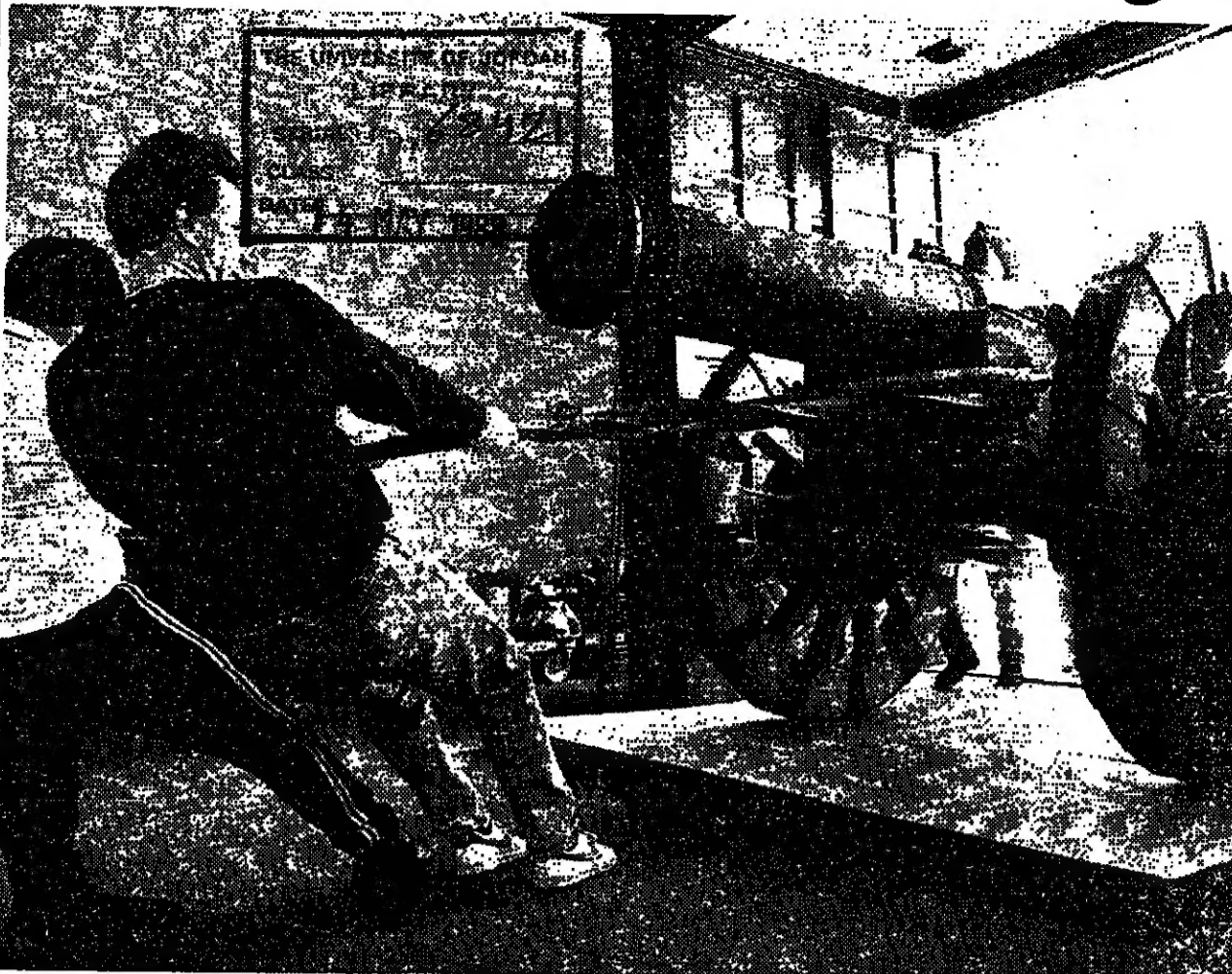
ding, chief executive of BSB, said yesterday Mr Bickham would have a key role in the company's relationship with Whitehall, the Independent Broadcasting Authority and Europe. "Some months ago, I realized we were not putting enough time and effort into government matters because people were working so hard here on other matters including recruiting staff, getting the programming right and talking to micro-chip manufacturers", he said.

BSB has been under pressure from some investors to lobby government departments to make sure the pace of change in broadcasting is not so rapid as to threaten the satellite venture's survival.

A subscription film channel is expected to underpin BSB financially in its formative years. The company does not want the Government to give the go-ahead for a fifth satellite channel to be funded by subscription rather than advertising.

Mr Bickham will also act as a special assistant to the chief executive, ensuring that decisions on programming, marketing, finance and operations are carried out.

## Armada cannon reaches target



A five-ton bronze siege gun of 1556 from the wreck of the Spanish Armada transport ship, Trinidad Valencera, which would have been used to batter the walls of London, being hoisted into the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, south London, yesterday to be part of the 1588-1988 Armada exhibition, which opens on April 20 (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance).

## Post Office still failing on efficiency

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor  
The Post Office is still failing to meet delivery targets or achieve improvements in service suggested by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the House of Commons was told yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Trade and Industry, said there were eight recommendations made by the commission which the Post Office had failed fully to implement.

He said the commission could not decide whether the Post Office monopoly was in the public interest until those recommendations had been followed.

Mr Clarke gave a warning that some of the 1,500 crown post offices might be closed or become private sub post offices after the commission reports on the efficiency of counter services.

However, he said he recognized that the Post Office was anxious to develop its counter trade by offering financial services like those of building societies and insurance companies.

Mr Clarke acknowledged that significant progress had been made since the commission reported, especially in the introduction of mechanization and improved working methods.

Among the commission recommendations which the Post Office is trying to meet is the establishment of standard times and costs for letter post and a productivity scheme based on them.

Other recommendations still not met included the introduction of a computerized system for manpower statistics, the computerization of an airmail bags records system and replacement of sorting machines for the foreign mail section. It was disappointing, Mr Clarke said, that the introduction of the new systems and machinery needed had been so long delayed.

### Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Spanish holiday surprise

A pensioner on holiday in Spain and a housewife share the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mrs Margaret Nosek, of Taplow, Buckinghamshire, will be told of her win on holiday by family friends who say she has played the competition since it started and has been a life-long reader of *The Times*.

Also enjoying a £2,000 windfall is Mrs Brenda Eastham, of The Close, Claverton Village, Bath, Avon, who said she would use some of the money to buy a new car and the rest to visit her two daughters, one studying at Leeds University and the other a veterinary surgeon in the Orkney Islands.

### Rates money keeps lord's home in style

Thousands of pounds of ratepayers cash is being used to cut the laws around Lord Methuen's Wiltshire estate because of legal red tape.

The Elizabethan mansion and gardens are kept spic and span with money which would otherwise be spent on education.

County council officials have admitted he is legally entitled to £120,000 a year for the next 78 years under an agreement when Corsham Court, near Chippenham, Wiltshire, was taken over for an art college, now moved.

Mr Don Foster, council education committee chairman, said yesterday that Lord Methuen had indicated he would want a million to break the lease.

# GOVT. GIVES N.H.S. £1.5 bn

## Move to get the timing right

By Sheila Ginn, Political Staff

Britain will face darker mornings and lighter evenings under a proposed shift in summer time being considered by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary.

He announced three options yesterday for determining where to set the clocks with the hope that at least one can satisfy the majority of the public, industry and the EEC.

However, he hinted that the strongest demand is coming from those who want lighter evenings. Such a system was adopted during the Second

World War. It was tried again between 1968 and 1971 but discontinued because of opposition to dark, winter mornings.

He is under pressure to make a decision before 1990 so that clocks can be harmonized throughout the EEC.

In his consultation paper published yesterday he suggests either:

• Ending summer time in late September, in line with the EEC, instead of in late October.

• Putting the clocks forward

one hour in the winter and two hours in the summer to bring in an even longer period of evening daylight.

• Keeping the present system of Greenwich Mean Time in the winter and putting the clocks forward one hour in the summer months.

Mr Hurd said: "After this consultation process has been completed, the Government will canvass public and parliamentary opinion."

The Home Office is calling for representations by June 30.

The Royal College of Nursing wishes you a happy April Fool's Day. But this is no joke. The NHS really needs this much money.

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# 'First Maundy Thursday when poor lose cash'

Rulers were taking money from the poor for the first time in the history of Maundy Thursday, Mr Neil Kinnock said, to Labour cheers, when he again harried the Prime Minister over Government changes in social security benefits.

During questions, the Leader of the Opposition said that from tomorrow, when her changes in housing benefit and rates relief came into effect, an elderly woman on basic pension would, because of the 20 per cent rule, have to pay £2 a week instead of getting £100 rates relief.

A war widow aged 87 with a small occupational pension would lose housing benefit or have it reduced by £17.87. A couple in work with a joint net income of £32 a week would lose £16.50 in help with their rates and rents.

"This historic day is the first Maundy Thursday in history when instead of giving money to the poor, rulers are taking money away from the poor" (Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: First, more is being given to the poor, a great deal more. Expenditure on social security has gone up from £16 billion to £46 billion, an enormous increase, and is going up a further £2 billion next year. That means that the average family is now paying £64 a week to finance social security.

Yes, we have had structural changes. They were meant to re-target the money spent so that disabled people, families with children and in low-paid work are better off.

Cash with transitional protection and income support means that 97 per cent of the sick and disabled, 92 per cent of couples with children, 89 per cent of single parents and 87 per cent of pensioners get more or the same.

Mr Kinnock: The Prime Minister is making the same stupid mistake — (Conservative protests) — as she made with the NHS. Doesn't she realize that there are no transitional ar-

## PRIME MINISTER

rangements for housing benefit and the loss of rates relief. So that is utterly irrelevant.

She can play the numbers game as much as she likes. If the targets missed include war widows, people who are desperately sick, hundreds of thousands of poor people, her targets are rubbish (loud Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: He is saying that we must never, never have a restructuring of social security if anyone loses (Labour protests). It is an absolutely ridiculous thing to say. He ignores the enormous increase. We deliberately did reconstruct. We deliberately did have changes.

Ninety-seven per cent of the sick and disabled, 92 per cent of couples with children, 89 per cent of single parents, 87 per cent of pensioners get more or the same.

Mr Kinnock: In order to get those figures, she has had to lump together gainers and those who are reckoned to be neither gainers nor losers.

The minister who compiled those figures had to go to the select committee yesterday and admit that those reckoned to be neither gainers nor losers are already losers because, as he put it, their benefits were frozen in 1987.

About £650 million is taken away from housing benefit. Seven hundred thousand people will lose everything. There are people who have put a few bob away to tide them over through their old age. She is cutting them off without a penny.

Mrs Thatcher: £16 billion to £46 billion, going up a further £2 billion, is even on his arithmetic, an enormous increase.

Mr Iwan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn, Pl C): Since she is so dismissive of the views of Citizens Advice Bureau, does she share the views of a member

of her own party, who said yesterday that pensioners with modest savings could lose up to £10 a week in housing benefit as a result of changes. Will she give a straight answer?

Mrs Thatcher: It was a matter of policy that housing benefit should be cut where people have £6,000 in addition to ownership of a house. It was a matter of policy that they should not be entitled to housing benefit.

Every two households in this country support themselves and a third household. There is a limit to housing benefit and we have it right. People without capital should not be forced to pay to those with sums of up to £6,000.

Mr Harry Barnes (North East Derbyshire, Lab): In a moment of weakness on the Cross, Jesus said: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" When we return, why will the Government by then have forsaken the poor (Conservative protests)?

Mrs Thatcher: As I have already indicated, the Government does not have resources. The people do. People are already paying £46 billion in state social security. It is going up by a further £2 billion. The average family will pay £64 a week to social security. That is a very considerable amount.

During questions about forthcoming business, Mr Frank Dobson, Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs, asked if, should the Opposition take up the Prime Minister's invitation to put a motion to cancel the social security changes, the Government would provide time for it to be debated? Would the Prime Minister take part in such a debate?

He said that if she did, she would be able to display to the whole country her expertise in robbing the poor to pay the rich.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, replied that there was an established procedure for the Opposition to use its own days to discuss matters of its own choosing.

He had no doubt that when ever replied to the debate would see the Opposition off once again.



Mrs Margaret Thatcher: People without capital should not be forced to give to those with sums of up to £6,000

## Drink sale ban for garages

The House of Lords voted, against Government advice, to ban the sale of alcohol in garages.

An amendment, moved by Viscount Brentford (C) during the report stage of the Licensing Bill, was approved by 63 votes to 45 — majority against the Government, 18.

Peers also approved an amendment to allow off-licences to open half an hour earlier in the morning — at 8am instead of 8.30am.

Lord Brentford, a founder of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said that the licensing of 150 garages to sell alcohol undermined the Government's case for discouraging drinking and driving.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that there was no evidence to show that where alcohol was sold in garages it encouraged drinking-driving. The licensed garages were mainly in remote rural areas and served as general stores.

Lord Graham of Edmonton (Lab) and Lord Salisbury (SDP) moved an amendment to allow 8am off-licence opening.

Lord Graham said that the move was supported by the Retail Consortium, which represented 90 per cent of the retail trade. The present situation caused confusion and irritation in shops which opened at 8am.

This was very inconvenient for those shopping on their way to work.

Earl Ferrers agreed that move was in keeping with the spirit of the Bill by removing an unnecessary and outdated restriction.

The report stage was concluded.

## 'Inquest will answer questions'

# Rebuke for Amnesty

Mrs Thatcher joined with Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C), in suggesting to Amnesty International that it should be more concerned about the IRA's record than about the death of three of its members in Gibraltar. He called the Amnesty demand "a stunt without status".

Mr Gow: When she replies to the letter from Amnesty International on behalf of the three terrorists, mercifully now dead, will she point out that it is the organization to which those terrorists belonged that has been in massive breach of all decent standards relating to human rights, and further point out that there has to be an inquest carried out before a jury in Gibraltar and that the inquiry for which Amnesty Inter-

national has asked is a stunt without status.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with almost every word that Mr Gow has put so ably. I hope that Amnesty International has the same concern for more than 2,000 people murdered by the IRA since 1969. There will be an inquest in Gibraltar and that is the proper occasion for these matters to be examined.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C): Recent tragic events reinforce the vital importance of the Army supporting the civil power in Northern Ireland and that if the Troop Out movement were successful, it would place innocent lives in jeopardy.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. Northern Ireland is part of the United

Kingdom. There is no question of withdrawing.

Mr Frank Dobson, chief Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs, later asked for a ministerial statement explaining exactly what happened in Gibraltar.

He said that the Opposition recognized that the security services had been rightly concerned to stop a terrorist explosion in Gibraltar, but he wanted to know how the press came to be misled into carrying false information about the subsequent shooting.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, said that any questions that might not be answered at the inquest to be held in Gibraltar would be more appropriately raised after that inquest.

## MP 'deserves long holiday'

A Labour MP who accused the Government of authoritarianism, extra-parliamentary activity, degrading democratic institutions, creating a climate similar to that of an East European country and using the police as a paramilitary wing of government, was living in Cloud-cuckoo-land, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Civil Service, said during a debate in the Commons.

The charges came from Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland South) during a debate on the powers of the Executive. He said that it should more appropriately have been entitled: The drift towards a one-party state.

The trend towards centralization of power over the past 10 years was causing concern to many people, including some Conservative MPs. The Government was using its power to

dismantle or neutralize legitimate opposition and, to that end, institutions had been reduced to instruments of the state and, in some cases, of the Conservative Party.

There was a tendency for those in office to denounce dissenters as "looseies", mad or enemies within, without addressing the issues they raised. That was an unhealthy trend.

The power amassed by the Government, covering the judiciary, the police, the officer corps of the armed forces, leading elements in industry and finance, the Civil Service, senior diplomats, a servile media and the Board of Governors of the BBC, was unmatched in any country outside the Stalinist system.

The Prime Minister even spoke, not of defeating the opposition but of eliminating it.

Mr Luce said that after such an extraordinary speech Mr Mullin deserved a long holiday. He was living in a world of his own. It seemed he was really sincere in what he had been saying, and that was the most extraordinary thing.

The whole objective of the Government had been to devolve power away from the Executive back to individuals, with a reduction in central control. It had made a bonfire of planning and development controls, of exchange controls, of regulation, of unnecessary restrictions on business.

Power had been returned to the people through privatization, through wider share ownership, including employee share ownership, through council house sales and by strengthening the power of trade unionists over their unions.

## Response to Aids under fire

The Prime Minister rejected a demand by Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, that the Government should rethink what he described as its "appallingly short-sighted response" to this week's report on Aids and drugs issues.

Dr Owen said that, in Edinburgh, half of those people who were on injectable drugs had the HIV virus, the most likely route for Aids to reach the heterosexual community.

"Unless money is spent to control drug users, we run a serious risk of Aids spreading to the community as a whole."

Mrs Thatcher: I do not agree. We have tried to get over an excellent education policy and tried to make excellent facilities available and put a large amount into extra research. We have the balance right.

● The co-operation between the police, the Football Association and the clubs had done a good deal to stamp out soccer hooliganism, but there was still a long way to go, Mrs Thatcher said at question time.

The Prime Minister had been asked by Mrs Margaret Hicks (Wolverhampton North East, C) to congratulate the chief superintendent of police in Wolverhampton and the 250 officers involved on their successful initiative earlier this week.

Mrs Hicks said that they had to continue to detect and punish violent football offenders.

Mrs Thatcher: I think that the police in all parts of the country are to be congratulated on their determined efforts to tackle football hooliganism and to track down those responsible.

● An Easter appeal that value-added tax should not be charged

on contributions to the repair of the fabric of churches was rejected by the Prime Minister during question time.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): When Mrs Thatcher goes to church over Easter, will she see whether the collection is to go to the fabric fund and, if it is, reflect, as she puts her contribution into the plate, that 15 per cent is going to her next door neighbour (the Chancellor of the Exchequer)?

Would she therefore have discussions with the Chancellor to see whether VAT can be removed from repairs to listed buildings, especially churches.

Mrs Thatcher: The Easter collection normally goes to the clergy. She said, however, that she took his point. "It has been considered many times and I do not think that there will be any change in the decision made."

## 'Identity cards' for students in poll tax cut

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Certificates proving an entitlement to an 80 per cent discount on the community charge are to be issued by universities and colleges to all 600,000 full-time students when the poll tax is introduced in 1990, it was disclosed yesterday.

The move was denounced by Labour as the first step towards the issue of identity cards in Britain.

The Government also disclosed that it may take powers to compel campus authorities to supply local councils with the names and term time addresses of full-time students.

The moves, aimed at ensuring the "smooth and efficient" registration of students for the community charge and "avoiding possible abuse of the concession", were unveiled by Mr Michael Howard, minister responsible for local government.

He said it was clearly important that full-time students, who would pay only 20 per cent of the personal community charge, should be correctly and readily identified for registration purposes.

Accordingly, the Local Government Finance Bill would be amended at its report stage later this month to include a requirement that universities and colleges should issue certificates to full-time students, confirming their status.

"These certificates will make it straightforward for students to claim the student discount as well as assisting community charge registra-

tion officers", Mr Howard wrote to Dr John Cunningham, Labour spokesman on the environment.

The proposals were criticized by Labour as a further illustration of the "Big Brother" realities behind the poll tax.

Dr Cunningham said: "The Government is now definitely planning to introduce the first poll tax identity cards."

"Students are to be, in Michael Howard's words, 'correctly and readily identified' for the purposes of the poll tax."

"The Labour Party has argued all along that this pathetic and bureaucratic poll tax would end in identity cards being issued in Britain. It seems that students are to be the first of many."

The proposals were also condemned by the National Union of Students. It said that students were being made "guinea pigs" for the wider issue of identity cards.

"It is an invasion of privacy of students and will be resented by them and will cause problems for the relationship between students and university and college authorities", a spokesman said.

Mr Howard said he would consult campus authorities on the possibility of setting up "satisfactory informal procedures" for the supply of information.

However, the Government would seek to amend the Bill to give it reserve powers to set up statutory arrangements later if such agreement did not prove possible.

## Abortion reform Bill Alton prepares to fight off sabotage

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr David Alton is to intensify his nationwide campaign to mobilize public support for his abortion reform Bill in an attempt to outmanoeuvre MPs intent on killing it through procedural devices.

The Bill completed its committee stage on Wednesday night but Mr Alton's opponents are confident that they can talk out the Bill at its report stage in the Commons on May 6.

They plan to table amendments signed by so many MPs that the Speaker will have little choice but to accept them for debate.

Mr Alton's supporters are determined to ensure there is a public outcry if they succeed and that there would be irresistible pressure on the Government to make further time available.

Between now and May 6 every MP is to be sent two video films, one setting out the terms of the Bill and the other,



Mr David Alton: determined to reform the law.



Sir Bernard Braine, who gave a warning to opponents.

called *Eclipse of Reason*, which shows a late abortion being performed.

There is to be a mass lobby of Parliament on April 26 and 27 and on the second day a million-signature petition will be presented to Downing Street.

A record is to be released of a song written by a rock

musician to dissuade his daughter from having an abortion.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, who would have to decide whether to make time available, is understood to have been heavily lobbied by both sides.

Sir Bernard Braine, the most senior Tory MP and

## SNP defends state steel

By Kerry Gill

The long-term future of the Ravenscraig plant can be guaranteed only by a publicly owned, integrated Scottish steel industry, the Scottish National Party said yesterday.

Mr Iain Lawson, the party's steel spokesman, criticized the Labour Party for promoting the "dangerous red herring" of linking the Ravenscraig works at Motherwell, Strathclyde, to the Shotton plant in Clywd.

"Labour have conveniently forgotten the pledge they made in 1986, under great pressure from the SNP, to replace Gartcosh with a new finishing mill on the Ravenscraig site", he said.

Mr Lawson, who quit the Conservative Party over the closure of the Gartcosh steel works at Coatbridge two years ago, said Labour was wrong to believe that a link with Shotton would save Ravenscraig and Dalzell, another Strathclyde plant.

Last month, a study supported by the Labour Party said the only way to save both plants was to privatize them in a separate group with Shotton.

The idea, known as the RSD option, goes against the Government's wish to privatize British Steel as a single unit. However, it is in line with the Government's overall policy

on privatization and competition.

Mr Lawson argued that reliance on Shotton for steel finishing would not save Ravenscraig.

"The obvious impotence of the 'feeble fifty' (a reference to Labour's 50 Scottish MPs), and the Tories' rush towards privatization, has meant Labour would rather abandon Scottish steelworkers than be exposed yet again as unable to defend Scottish interests", he said in Glasgow.

The Labour Party had abandoned Scottish steel to save its own political neck.

## Men resisting alimony, says Owen

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

An alarming effect of the Budget is that men will fiercely resist paying maintenance to estranged wives and dependants, Dr David Owen has warned Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Loss of tax relief will mean husbands have to be dragged "kicking and screaming into court" before they agree to give financial support, the SDP leader says in a letter to the Chancellor.

On the day after the Budget men were seeking to reduce their maintenance payments, he said. Poverty and hardship would increase, and the increasingly conciliatory cli-

mate in which matrimonial law was conducted would be reversed.

Dr Owen has asked Mr Lawson to reconsider the effect of his proposals.

Before the Budget a man was entitled to full tax relief on maintenance payments, while the wife only paid income tax if the assistance exceeded her single person's tax allowance. The husband could gain maximum relief while the wife paid minimum tax and one income could cover two households.

According to Dr Owen, Mr Lawson's proposals mean the husband will get maximum

relief of £1,490 while the wife will pay no income tax.

This sounded simpler, but in reality it would mean few husbands would be able to provide adequate maintenance and more and more women and children would have to resort to social security, Dr Owen said.

"It will simply impose further hardship on the single parents and their children and mean that more and more husbands default on their court orders."

The Treasury does not dispute Dr Owen's figures but argues that the new system will be fairer.

## Debate wanted on 'lost' papers

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab) called during business questions for a debate on what he said was the extraordinary saga of disappearing documents that were in the Public Records Office and which related to war crimes in general and to the allegations against President Waldheim of Austria in particular.

He asked for the attention of the Foreign Secretary to be drawn to the article in *The Times* on this subject. He also wanted an assurance that British military intelligence would not take yet more information out of the files.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, replied that he would refer the newspaper report to the Foreign Secretary.

## Shipping Bill is passed

The Government has taken power, in an amendment to the Merchant Shipping Bill, to restrict the use of non-British ships in trade between British ports.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, made clear, when he moved the amendment in the Commons, that he would prefer an EEC agreement restricting all restrictions on cabotage, but said that it would be prudent to have powers in reserve in case European negotiations were unsuccessful. The amendment was agreed to and the Bill was read the third time without a division early on Thursday.

## Light aircraft accidents

A Civil Aviation Authority group has been studying light aircraft safety after a rise in fatal accidents last year. Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a Commons debate, its report will be published before the end of April.

The number of fatal accidents rose to 25 last year and there were four micro-light fatalities. From 1981 to 1986 the number of fatal accidents a year varied from 13 to 20.

## Standard for equipment

The British Standards Institution is preparing a new standard for children's play equipment and it is expected to be completed this year. Mr Robert Dorn, Under Secretary of State, Education and Science, said in the Commons early on Thursday in an adjournment debate on playground injuries.

He said that British Standards did not have statutory force but provided valuable and influential guidance.

## Paisley dampens Ulster optimism

By David Nicholson-Lord

Growing signs of political movement in the Ulster stalemate were dealt a blow yesterday with a hardline intervention from the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party.

On his return from a week's visit to the United States, Mr Paisley ruled out talks on a new constitutional settlement without a suspension of the Anglo-Irish agreement. He said there were no circumstances in which the DUP would enter negotiations with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

Although his stand is re-affirmation of existing DUP policy, its emphatic delivery will deflate the mood of cautious optimism building up in the province during the past few days.

Signs of a new flexibility in the Unionist camp, where Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, spoke recently of the need to examine the "totality of relation-

ships" between Britain and Ireland, have been paralleled by talks between the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party and Sinn Fein.

On Tuesday SDLP leaders also met Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. But Mr Paisley, speaking at the opening at Belfast City Hall of a book of condolences for the two British soldiers killed at an IRA funeral rejected the possibility of direct talks with the SDLP.

He said the Anglo-Irish agreement had to be put on the sidelines if the search was begun for an alternative to it. Asked about attempts by Mr John Hume, leader of the SDLP, to persuade Sinn Fein to end the campaign of violence, Mr Paisley added: "We will not be sitting down with Sinn Fein, full stop. We will not be negotiating with those who have carried out the awful murders in Northern Ireland."

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## Debate wanted on 'lost' papers

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## Standard for equipment

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## Compensations

The Government is considering compensation for victims of the BSE epidemic. The compensation will be for victims of the BSE epidemic. The compensation will be for victims of the BSE epidemic. The compensation will be for victims of the BSE epidemic.

## Mr Yuk replaces the skull and crossbones

The skull and crossbones, for centuries the warning symbol for poison, is to be replaced on medicine bottles by a bright green logo called Mr Yuk. The logo is called Mr Yuk. The logo is called Mr Yuk. The logo is called Mr Yuk.

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# Medical experts to check on health workers with Aids

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

An independent panel of medical experts is to be set up urgently to advise doctors and health workers infected with the Aids virus on whether they can continue to treat patients, the Department of Health said yesterday.

The move is recommended by the Government's Expert Advisory Group on Aids (EAGA) in its report published yesterday.

The report emphasizes that no transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) from a doctor, nurse or other health professional to a patient has been reported anywhere in the world.

It says that provided normal precautions are followed, most clinical procedures pose no risk of HIV transmission to a patient.

But it concedes that there is an "extremely small theoretical risk" of transmitting the virus if infected surgeons, or others assisting in operations, injure themselves in such a way that their blood contaminates the blood of patients.

The report makes it clear that any member of a surgical team with Aids or HIV infection would almost certainly be

required to stop taking part in invasive operations.

A very few doctors and other NHS staff are believed to have been infected with HIV, and one British consultant kidney specialist is known to have died of Aids last year.

Publicity about that death led to an intense debate within the medical and nursing professions about the responsibility of infected personnel to give up or alter their work to safeguard their patients.

The department said last November that all doctors who believed themselves to be infected had a duty to seek expert advice, and if necessary, to give up work. That view has been supported by the General Medical Council and the British Medical Association.

The expert advisory group emphasized that obligation yesterday. "Health care workers who consider that they have been infected with HIV should seek immediate counselling and, if appropriate, diagnostic HIV antibody testing", its report said.

"If found to be infected, and if their duties involve performing, or assisting in,

surgical procedures, they must also seek and act upon occupational advice on any modifications or limitations to their duties which may be necessary for the protection of patients."

In addition, health care staff with HIV or Aids should remain under regular medical supervision to ensure the early detection of symptoms, including mental instability, the report recommends.

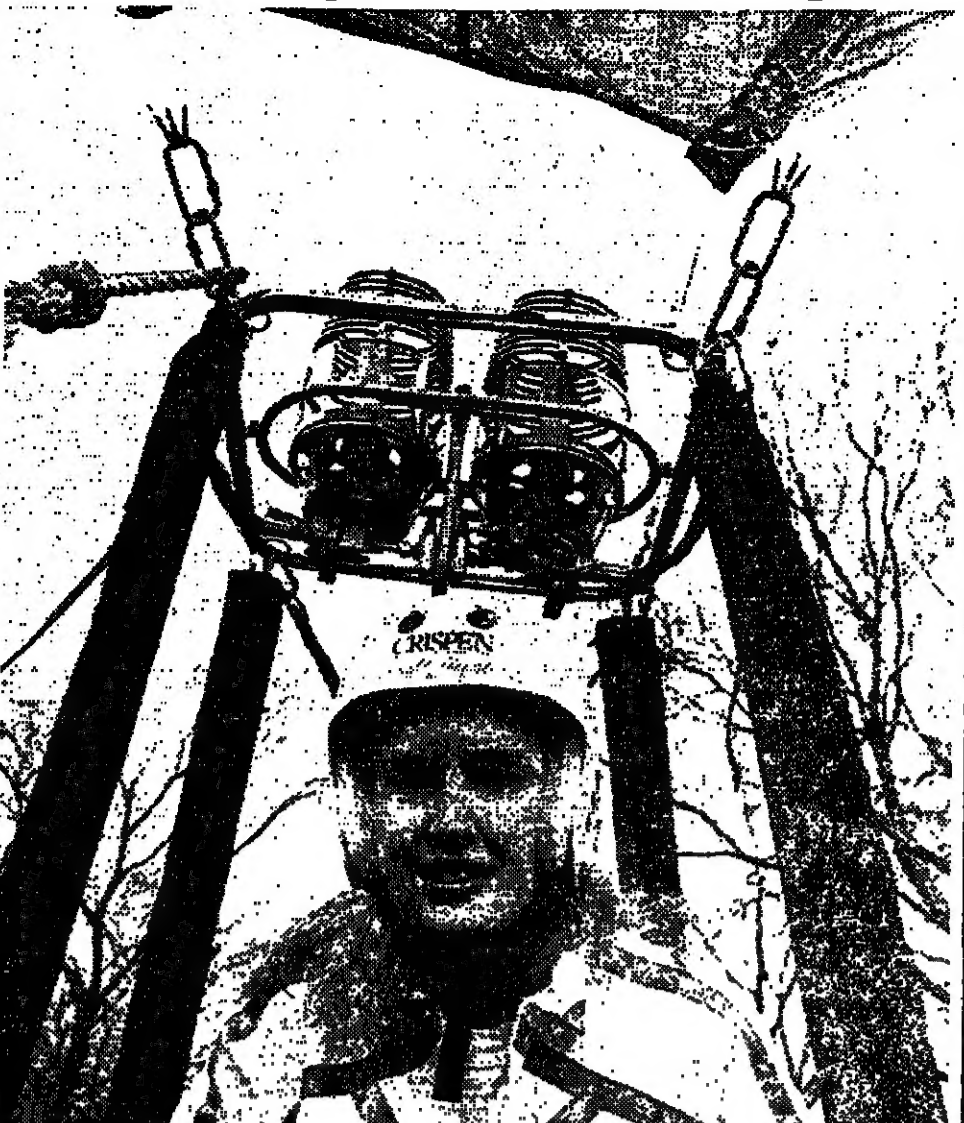
In last year's controversial case, the consultant with Aids accepted the expert advisory group's advice and stopped work with patients in a renal unit. His patients were monitored for traces of HIV infection, but none was found.

In the view of the Government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, the policy of encouraging infected doctors to come forward "had exactly the desired effect".

The report notes that no country has suggested a general ban on HIV-infected doctors taking part in operations, or advocated specific restrictions on the employment of any group of health staff.

Copies of Aids/HIV-Infected Health Care Workers have been sent to all health authorities and professional organizations.

## Heading for the heights



Dani Bridge of Nottingham in the balloon in which she hopes to beat the UK altitude record next week. Miss Bridge, whose mother died of cancer, will fly in aid of cancer research. She already holds the British women's altitude record (Photograph: Peter Trievner).

## Tories expect nurses' rise to be paid in full

By Martha Fletcher, Political Reporter

A growing number of Tory MPs expect the Cabinet to accept and fund fully the recommendations of the nurses' pay review body.

Senior MPs have been convinced by contacts with ministers in the past week that the recommendations will be implemented. They were predicting that there could be rises of up to 20 per cent for the most skilled grades.

An influential group of more than 20 Conservative MPs has added to the pressure on the Government by tabling a Commons motion praising the devotion of the Royal College of Nursing for the recent endorsement of its no-strike policy.

The motion calls on the Government "to implement any pay award recommended by the independent review body and to fund it in full".

Mr Michael Latham, MP for Rutland and Melton, and sponsor of the motion, said yesterday that there was "a very solid caucus of well-established and long-serving members who expect the Government to act sensibly and generously towards the health service".

The economy was in excellent shape. There was little point in having an indepen-

dent review body if its recommendations were ignored. "Many senior Tory MPs regard the way the Government treats the recommendations as a touchstone of its future attitude to the NHS."

The recommendations are expected to land on the Prime Minister's desk within the next few days and there is intense pressure on the Government to take quick action.

Pay accounts for 75 per cent of the expenditure of local health authorities. There is wide cross-party agreement that they cannot adequately plan for the financial year ahead without knowing what to allocate for staff costs.

In recent years the Government has failed to fund awards in full and the all-party social services committee has calculated total underfunding since 1981 to be £1.8 billion - a figure disputed by ministers.

Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has already told the Commons that in future decisions on public sector pay would be taken before the beginning of the new financial year.

He has also warned health authority managers that cuts in services in the coming year cannot be justified.

## Pilots to face tough new tests

Private pilots are to face tougher tests of their flying skills in an attempt to stem growing numbers of air deaths.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, told the Commons that an investigation by the Civil Aviation Authority had decided that more positive and formal tests of skill were needed.

Mr Bottomley said that in 1987 private fixed-wing pilots caused 25 deaths, compared with between 13 and 20 for the years 1981 to 1986.

## Waste storage

Cumbria County Council are recommending Copeland Borough Council to reject an application by British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) to extend the time for storage of spent nuclear fuel from overseas at Sellafield. BNFL has requested the removal of the December 1990 to December 1995 time limit.

## Alpine cure

Asthmatic children from England are to undergo high altitude treatment in the French Alps. The European Society for Climatotherapy will accept some English children aged between seven and 15 for three-month courses of treatment near Grenoble.

## Abortion file

Police investigating the case of a baby girl, who lived for more than two hours after being aborted at 21 weeks at the City General Hospital in Carlisle last July, have sent a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

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Research showed that children are not scared of the old symbol any more, so Mr Yuk is being used in a new campaign to stop children accidentally poisoning themselves.

Safety watchdogs alarmed at the increase in the number of children swallowing harmful substances have copied the idea, which is to be introduced first in Liverpool, from the United States.

## BR beats cash cuts deadline

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A reduction in British Rail's subsidy, condemned as too harsh by a passenger group, has been achieved a year ahead of schedule.

In 1986 the Department of Transport told the railways to manage on a subsidy of £555 million a year by 1989-90, a cut of 25 per cent. Allowing for inflation, it is equivalent to more than £600 million.

It was announced yesterday that the subsidy would be £605 million in the 1988-89 financial year, starting today.

British Rail said that meant it expected to reach the Government's target a year early. Receipts had been coming in at a higher level, and costs coming down at a higher rate, than had been forecast in 1986. A prime factor was the general improvement in the economy.

However, the Central Transport Consultative Committee, which represents passengers, expressed fears that service could be affected.

The three-year target set in 1986 had been extremely tough and "we would be doubly concerned at any further tightening of the financial constraints". Improvements in service would be delayed, it said.

The Department of Transport said the achievement of the target was a "welcome consequence of British Rail's success in attracting more passengers and consequently in receiving greater income than was forecast when the three-year target was set".

The figure of £605 million "makes full provision for worthwhile investment to improve quality of service and improve efficiency".

The 25 per cent cut followed a similar reduction between 1983 and 1986.

For the first time, from today the long distance InterCity services will receive no public subsidy, and are expected to turn a loss of about £100 million in 1987-88 into a £17 million profit within two years.

British Rail receives grants only for the provincial passenger trains, excluding InterCity, and Network SouthEast.

British Rail said that over the past three years commuter traffic into London had risen by 15 per cent, and InterCity's revenue was up by 12 per cent in the past year.

## NOW THE BMW MARQUE WILL NEVER BE MARKED.

It has been said that when a person invests in a BMW, they're really paying for a name.

It's a charge that BMW have long learned to live with.

After all, BMW is a name that reflects the very highest standards of construction and the very pinnacle of technical excellence.

Sadly, layers of grime and dirt combine to leave it a name reflecting little else. Nowhere more so than on the enamel bonnet badge.

So in a bid to keep their nose clean, BMW have developed the Badgewash system.

Available as standard on the new 750iL (and as an option on all other models) it features technology never seen on a car before. A tiny sensor mounted in the wiper arm

measures the light reflected back from the white sections of the BMW badge.

Even if a film of dirt cuts out as little as 5% of that light, the sensor will detect it and start the wiper.

The system is closely linked to the acclaimed Motronic engine management system. It means the wiper pressure can actually change depending on the car's speed.

The jet washer boasts equally futuristic technology.

An ion exchange system softens the water before it's sprayed onto the badge.

(Hard water would of course scratch the enamel surface.)

A fine system, you'll agree. But it's only the tip of the iceberg. BMW are refining a boot Badgewash at their German Research and Development complex.

Plans are in the pipeline for a wheel Badgewash utilising pressure from the brake pipe.

There's even talk of an anti-static steering wheel badge for dustier climates.

Clearly, BMW will go to extraordinary lengths to clear their name.

Send to: Uwe Beinhad, BMW Information Service, PO Box 46, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 6NF. Please send me more details of the BMW.

☐ Badgewash ☐ Bootwash ☐ Wheelwash ☐ Hogwash

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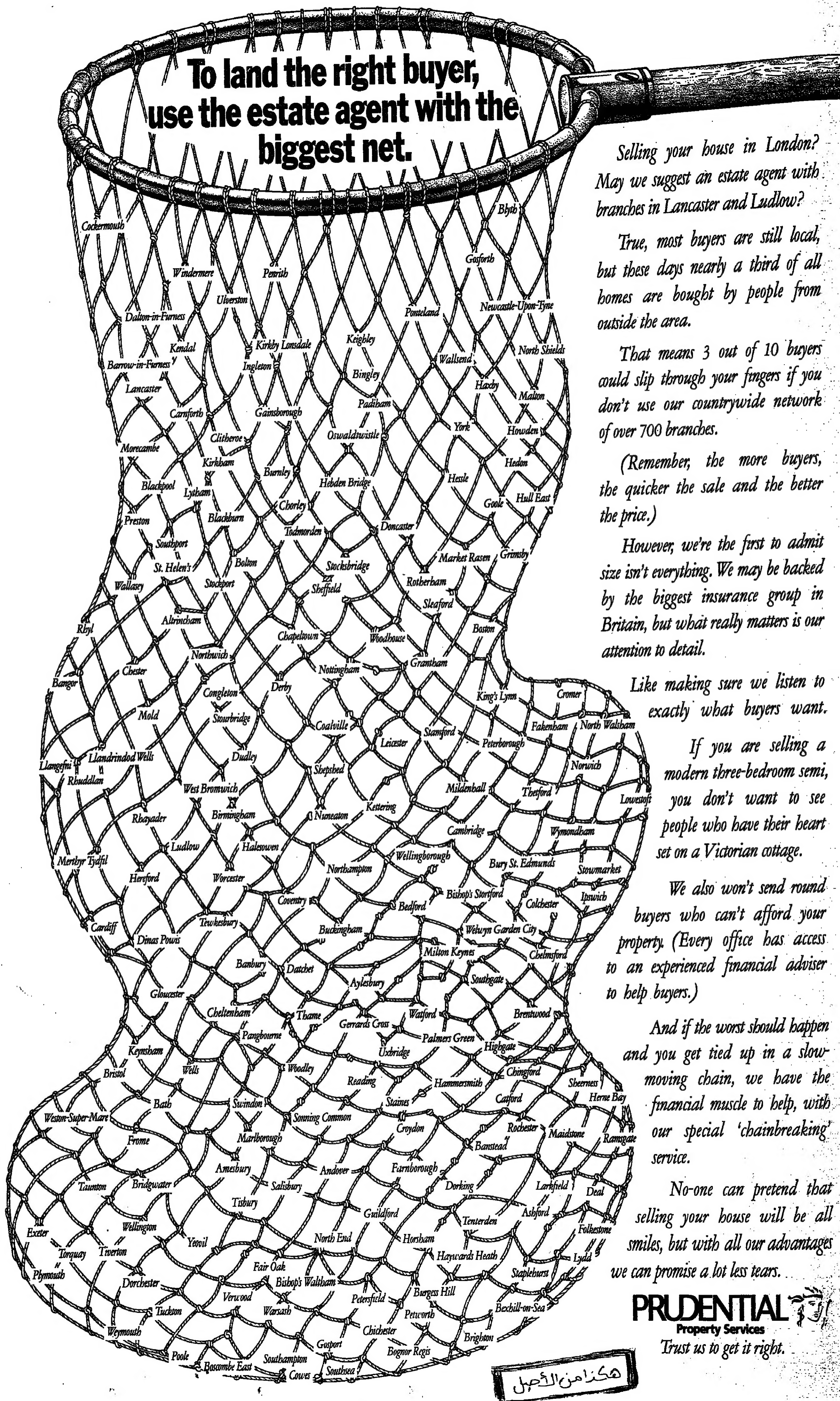
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# Docklands' anger over jobs that go to outsiders

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

People living in east London say dockland construction firms are asking them to accommodate workers being brought in from as far away as Ireland, while the unemployed in their own boroughs are not being given jobs.

Some firms have been calling on residents asking if they have rooms to let for outsiders while local unemployment stands at around 17 per cent.

The problem has been highlighted by Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour's spokesman on employment, who has written to Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, complaining that bricklayers are being recruited in Ireland and brought to docklands with offers of £600 a week wages.

However the Building Employers' Confederation (BEC), which represents companies responsible for 75 per cent of all building work in the private sector, said every effort is being made to recruit locally and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) is planning a big training centre in the docks specifically aimed at local workers.

East London officials of the Manpower Services Commission, however, say it is difficult for the unemployed in the area to get jobs on building sites.

One explained: "Much of the work is done by sub-contractors, who arrive with their own staff already recruited. It is obvious that if they win a contract they will not come to the site, then start recruiting."

"Secondly, many skilled people in the construction industry are self-employed and act on a freelance basis. As a result of all this, even if people arrive at our job centres willing to do labouring jobs, we can only tell them to try their luck on the sites. Not many are successful."

Mr Peter Shapcott, the confederation's London region director, said most of the jobs on building sites required skills and because of the pressure of work, particularly in London, firms were having to look to the provinces and Ireland, which had a tradition of supplying labour.

He said: "This pressure is going to be maintained until the end of the 1990s and a great effort is being made to provide training facilities locally. This has many advantages, not the least being the easing of the accommodation problem." Mr Shapcott said that over the next few years recruiting for the building industry would get worse as the school population fell and fewer young people came forward. He said construction firms were adopting schools and taking pupils to look at building sites in the hope of interesting them in learning building skills.

Already, more than 21,500 young people take up construction courses through Youth Training Scheme (YTS) each year, with between 50 and 60 per cent of them going on to qualify in the areas where skills are most needed such as bricklaying, plastering and carpentry.

Normal apprenticeships last three years, but a YTS trainee does one year on a course and two and a half years on-site training. The CITB also runs adult-entry training courses.

Some bricklayers are now earning as much as £600 a week on the prestige building sites through high productivity and long hours. But yesterday, Mr Jack Newby, director general of the confederation, wrote to Mr Fowler denying Mr Sheerman's assertion that his organization was sending recruiting teams to Ireland to find bricklayers.

He wrote: "Our member companies are invariably willing to recruit properly trained local operatives where these are available and the BEC, MSC and CITB are already developing a number of measures to provide further training opportunities for local people in docklands."

Officials of the Eurotunnel consortium, Trans-Manche Link (TML), have sent a recruiting team to Cairo, Hong Kong and Europe to find skilled workers. They need 4,000 manual workers and applications for these jobs already number 40,000. Personnel staff are interviewing between 600 and 800 men a month.

# Explorer mulls over lessons of failure

By Ronald Faux

Sir Ranulph Fiennes returned from the Arctic yesterday undeterred and unabashed that his expedition had covered less than one of the seven degrees of latitude separating him from the North Pole.

At Polar Control in London, a short row of dots on a map marked the final resting place of the Great British Polar Quest, but no one was critical. At best, dragging 400lb on a sledge trembles on the margins of human capability.

Admiral Picie, Sir Ranulph pointed out, had taken 25 years before he could claim to have reached the Pole. He had been trying for only four years and the timetable was already prepared for another attempt next year.

What lessons had been learnt? Well, there was the question of outriggers to stabilize the sledges when they were used as canoes to cross water. And perhaps a two-man team would have more chance logistically than three people trying to make a self-sustained attempt to cover the 425 miles to the Pole.

Anything else, anything bizarre? Yes, Sir Ranulph said, they could do with fewer scientific experiments.

Dr Mike Stroud, a kidney specialist, had been interested to measure the amounts of water the human body produced at times of extreme stress and temperature. This had involved producing a sample in a bottle and as they were required to drink seven pints of water a day, stops were frequent. "The result was that I got inconveniently frost nipped."

# More staff to tackle delays on passports

By John Winder

The Home Office is taking special measures to meet an expected heavy demand for passports this summer. Already this year the demand for new and changed passports is 25 per cent up on the same period in 1987 and more staff are to be recruited at all passport offices.

Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Home Office, said in the Commons yesterday that overtime is also to be worked at weekends and personal callers will be granted an immediate free short-term extension of an expired passport.

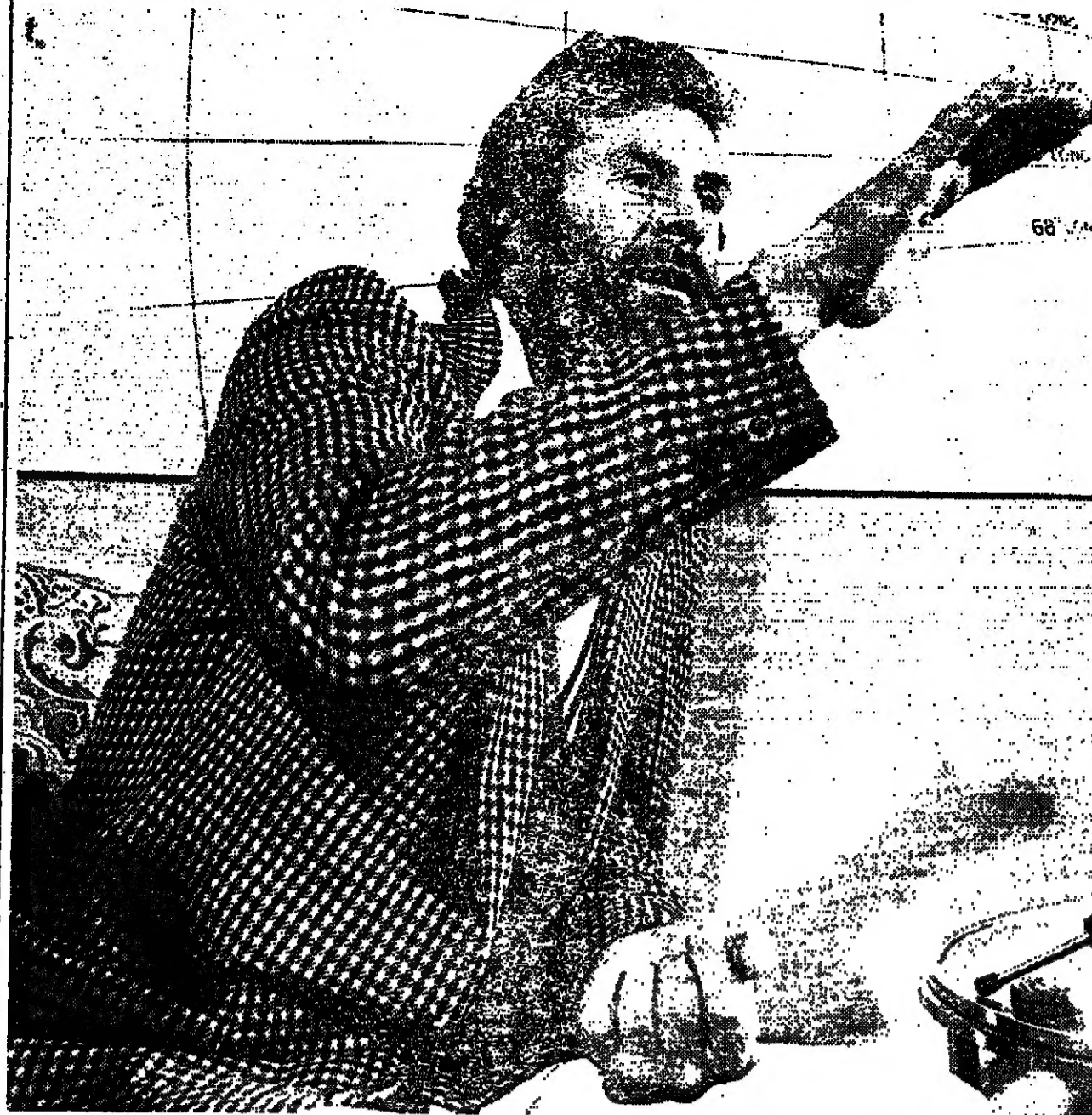
When a person has posted an application which cannot be traced, emergency travel documents will be issued to a personal caller.

Governments of countries to which Britons most frequently travel have been asked if they will accept uncancelled passports not more than five years out of date.

The Government is also trying to get the cheaper one-year visitor's passport accepted in more countries. These should soon be available at Post Offices six days a week instead of five.

Already, the United States, Israel, The Netherlands, Hong Kong and Antigua and Barbuda have agreed to accept both out-of-date and visitors' passports.

Computerization will begin at the Glasgow office in July and work will be dispersed there as soon as possible.



Sir Ranulph Fiennes outlining some of the difficulties on his polar journey, at yesterday's press conference.

# WE PUT A GLOSS ON YOUR HOME

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### Weekend food prices

## New season lamb is of top quality

The kind weather has helped to bring good supplies of new season lamb to market in time for Easter and the quality is superb.

Prices vary considerably in different areas, but the Meat and Livestock Commission says about £2.60 a lb is a fair price for a whole leg. Whole shoulder is about £1 a lb less.

This season lamb legs are about £1.79 a lb and shoulder an average £1.04 a lb. New Zealand lamb legs range from £1.30 to £1.59 a lb.

If beef is your choice there are some good offers available on topside and silverside. The average price of fillet steak is up by 5p a lb in the South-east and boned and rolled sirloin is about £3.04 a lb. Rib roast is about £1.59 a lb.

Pork prices are unchanged since last week. Whole leg costs an average £1.08 a lb and boneless shoulder £1.26 a lb. There are plenty of 5lb to 7lb chickens.

Some fresh fish prices have increased because of seasonal demand but quality and supplies are good. Herring and mackerel are cheaper, down 2p a lb to an average 84p and 69p respectively. Cod cutlets are about £2 a lb and fillets £2.30 a lb.

Haddock fillets are £1.50 and £3.00 a lb and grey mullet is the best buy at about £1.45 a lb.

Dover Sole in some areas is as little as £2.20 a lb but could be as much as £6 a lb elsewhere. South coast plaice is of particularly good quality selling at £2.60 for fillets and £1.40 for a whole fish.

Among the selection of exotic fish at Billingsgate this week were pomfret at £3.45 a lb, barracuda £4 a lb, snapper

£2.90 a lb, and tuna about £5 a lb. St Peter's fish (Tilapia) is about £2.45 a lb and bass £5.50 a lb.

Freshwater fish in good supply includes farmed salmon steaks between £3.90 and £4.80 depending on size. Wild salmon is about £7 a lb and trout £2.20 a lb.

Round lettuce is plentiful. Savory cabbages and Brussels sprouts are nearing the end of their season but should be available for Easter. Two favourites, iceberg lettuce at 80p to £1.10 each, and broccoli at 80 to £1.15 a lb, are more expensive this week. Cauliflowers at 50p to 70p a head are excellent quality.

Other good vegetable buys are mushrooms at 40p to 75p a half pound, courgette at 55p to 75p a lb, cabbages 17p to 30p a lb and potatoes at 11p to 15p a lb.

Fruit available include apples, pears and red, yellow and black plums between 60p and 80p a lb. Black, white and flame grapes are 60p to £1.50 a lb. Oranges are 6p to 25p each.

Good offers at supermarkets are Tesco, fresh whole turkeys at 98p a lb, fresh home produced lamb leg at £1.69 a lb, and whole scotch salmon at £2.99 a lb. Asda topside and silverside of beef are £1.89 a lb.

Sainsbury's leg or pork quarter cut is 98p a lb, grade A frozen turkeys 48p a lb, and pork loin chops £1.18 a lb. Bejam frozen turkeys are 48p a lb and 2½lb turkey breast roast is £3.99 each. Dewhurst fresh-style frozen turkeys are from £4.49 each, whole New Zealand lamb at 59p a lb, Safeway topside and silverside at £1.98 a lb, and whole smoked bacon collar £1.52 a lb.

## Huge tuna sets record

A deep sea fisherman, Kevin McHugh, caught a huge tuna which fetched a record £2,000 at Dublin market yesterday. The 704lb fish - 10ft long with a 12ft girth - was netted from 1,200ft, 30 miles west of Ireland's Blasket Islands by Mr McHugh's £10 million trawler, Veronica.

The tuna was landed at Killybegs and driven 190 miles overnight to Dublin, where it was snapped up by a supermarket chain and cut up

within hours into fresh steaks for sale.

Auctioneers said it was the biggest fish sold in Ireland. Mr McHugh, aged 41, said: "They've seen a lot of fish of all types and sizes in this port. But they cheered us when we came ashore with this one."

He added that it was unusual for tuna to be caught in European waters at this time of year. "It must have been a stray which came up in the Gulf Stream."

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## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Pentagon denies plan to cut SDI

Washington — The Pentagon is insisting that there will be no backing off, phasing down, or anything else of President Reagan's original concept of a comprehensive strategic defence system as envisaged five years ago (Mobsin Ali writes). The Pentagon spokesman said that no one in the Pentagon had changed the President's goals and objectives for the Strategic Defence Initiative. "Any suggestion that we are going to stop with a first phase deployment that only protects American military installations is just plain wrong," he said.

An article in *The Washington Post* last Sunday had said the Pentagon's immediate goal was to develop a system to protect vital US military installations from Soviet attack instead of the massive "space security shield" the President had first envisaged to protect American cities.

## Cypriot bases plea Jet crash kills two

Dr George Vassiliou, the new President of Cyprus, said in London yesterday that he would like to see the British military bases on the island withdrawn (Andrew McEwen writes).

But he used talks with Mrs Thatcher to press for a more active British interest in resolving the 14-year split between the Greek and Turkish halves of the island. They called their meeting "quietly hopeful", but Whitehall sources said that Mrs Thatcher had no intention of allowing the Cyprus issue to dominate her visit to Turkey next week.

Bonn — An American F16 jet fighter on a formation training flight crashed on Forst, near Karlsruhe, yesterday, killing the pilot and a man in one of three houses destroyed by a fire (John England writes). Fears of poisonous fumes from the burning wreckage led to the evacuation of 300 people in the village.

The accident came two days after a French fighter crashed in a wood near three nuclear power plants in Bavaria. Police said that the site of yesterday's crash was nine miles from the nearest nuclear power plant.

## Mulroney's changes

Ottawa (AFP) — The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, yesterday carried out a big Cabinet reshuffle, naming his Ambassador to France, Mr Lucien Bouchard, as the new Secretary of State.

Mr John Crosbie, the Transport Minister and an advocate of free trade with the US, is replaced by the Employment and Immigration Minister, Mr Benoit Bouchard. Mr Crosbie takes over as International Trade Minister, replacing Mr Pat Carney, who is named President of the Treasury Board, which monitors government spending.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Don Mazankowski, who had been in charge of the Treasury Board, has been put in charge of the Ministry of State for Privatization, replacing Ms Barbara McDougall, who takes over the employment and immigration portfolio from Mr Gerry Weiner. He becomes the Minister of State for Multiculturalism.

## Quest for acceptance by Democratic elders

## Jackson woos power-brokers

From Michael Banyon  
Washington

The Rev Jesse Jackson, moving adroitly to consolidate his position as a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, was in Wisconsin yesterday campaigning with the unofficial blessing of many of the party elders.

He invited some of the most respected Democratic power-brokers to a get-acquainted breakfast on Wednesday and strongly impressed them. "The old winkskins are expanding and making room for new wine," he said afterwards.

Mr Clark Clifford, the former Defence Secretary who has advised eight presidents, called it an "extraordinary event". He stopped short of endorsing Mr Jackson, but his praise will boost Mr Jackson's standing as he prepares to take on Governor Michael Dukakis in Wisconsin next week.

With both men running neck-and-neck the primary is seen as a vital precursor to the huge New York race, which, with 255 delegates, is likely to be decisive in establishing a front-runner.

The meeting was organized by Mr Bert Lance, President Carter's former budget director, who has become a leading adviser to Mr Jackson. It epitomized Mr Jackson's quest for full acceptance and his demand to be accepted in the circle of powerful party barons.

Sipping coffee in an elegant Washington hotel with 30 of the Democrats' inner circle, he attempted to allay the panic his rise has caused in the party, outlining his policies, and giving the group a chance to question him. He asked them to rally round him if he got more votes than any other candidate. Mr Clifford said the party would never stoop to a "stop Jackson" movement.

Wisconsin, which votes on



Mr Jackson discussing policy with his campaign manager, Mr Gerald Austin, as they travelled to Milwaukee for the Wisconsin primary. They want to use the state as a springboard to build support for their critical battle in New York.

Tuesday, may be fertile ground for Mr Jackson. With a liberal tradition, whites may support Mr Jackson's left-wing positions in large numbers. The state is also suffering from an economic downturn and Mr Jackson has closely identified himself with struggling farmers and unemployed industrial workers.

He needs a convincing show of support to bolster him for the New York primary the following week where he faces stiff opposition, especially from Jewish voters. Already the battle for this influential block, constituting 25 per cent of the Democratic vote, has

led to fierce debate on the Middle East. Senator Albert Gore, who is staking his continued viability on New York, has criticized Mr Jackson's lack of support for Israel. Launching the first real frontal assault on him by another candidate, he said Mr Jackson had no experience of government.

America was "not choosing a preacher, but a president", and "the presidency is not a pulpit". He said afterwards that his attacks were not personal, and there was no reason why Mr Jackson should be treated differently from any other candidate. But

Mr Jackson, who reacts strongly to criticism, immediately cancelled a scheduled meeting with Mr Gore.

Mr Dukakis, who now has re-established a very small lead in delegates over Mr Jackson, is turning his guns on Mr Gore in an attempt to cut him out of the race and make himself the only alternative to Mr Jackson.

But his rivals both have an interest in preventing this: Mr Gore because he needs a strong showing in a big state to remain in the race, and Mr Jackson because any split in the white vote would help him.

The latest polls suggest Mr Dukakis has the edge in Wisconsin, and a lead in New York over Mr Jackson of 40 percentage points to 29. But they also showed that voters had little enthusiasm for Mr Dukakis, and his support was not nearly as firm as that for Mr Jackson.

Mr Ed Koch, the outspoken Mayor of New York City, kept his distance from all three candidates, however, saying Mr Dukakis was bland and did not excite, Mr Gore too young, and Mr Jackson a man who had embraced Castro and Arafat.

## Decision day for Botham elephant

From Alan Franks  
Nairobi

The elephant withdrawn because of injury on the first day of Ian Botham's transatlantic walk in Hannibal's footsteps, will be pulled out permanently if she has not made a full recovery by tomorrow.

Salambo, one of three elephants on loan from the Italian Circus Medrano, has been given cortisone injections by the expedition's vet, Mr David Taylor, to treat a mild condition of peri-arthritis in the elbow joint of the right foreleg.

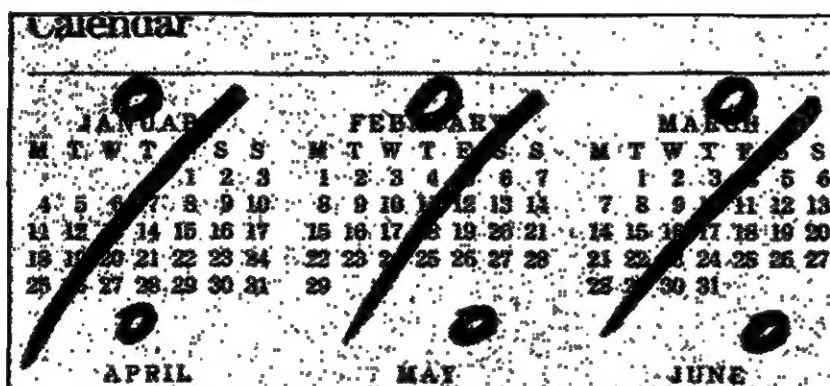
She rested yesterday, the second day of the 500-mile expedition, launched to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. The other two, Tall and Dido, walked about one-third of the 25-mile stretch between the villages of Sigan and Nissan.

Mr Taylor said yesterday: "This type of condition is very common in elephants. On a scale of lameness it would register only two out of 10, but this morning when I examined her, there was still evidence of a slight limp." During the 21-day expedition, the animals would not be pressed to do anything which might tire them, he said.

For the rest of the first week the terrain is reasonably flat, although the elephants, like the walkers, have encountered strong cross-winds.

During yesterday's march, Ian Botham told *The Times* that he was now actively considering walking in the footsteps of Napoleon, from Paris to Moscow, as his next expedition in aid of leukaemia research. He intends to accomplish one such venture each year, and believes the Hannibal walk will raise up to £7 million.

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### Israel's new spy chief

## Shin Bet freshens its image

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Israel's Shin Bet gets an unnamed new chief today, in a highly publicized change of guard that would appear to indicate that the country's internal security service, badly shaken by a series of scandals over the past five years, is back on the tracks.

The outgoing head of the agency, Mr Yosef Harmelin, whose impending resignation was announced by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, during last Sunday's Cabinet meeting, was called in to lead the scandal-ridden service in September 1986.

Mr Harmelin, aged 63, had already served as head of the Shin Bet from 1964 until 1974, and his recall was clearly a stop-gap measure designed to get the service through a crisis brought on by the resignation of its entire top echelon. He replaced Mr Avraham Shalom who, along with his deputy, Mr Reuven Hazak, was forced to resign after it was revealed that they had deliberately lied to an investigating committee on the role of the Shin Bet in the death of two captured Palest-

inian bus hijackers in April, 1984.

The Shin Bet had attempted to shift the blame for the notorious "Bus 300" affair onto the senior army officer involved, General Yitzhak Mordechai. The ploy appeared to be working and General Mordechai faced manslaughter charges until three senior Shin Bet operatives decided to blow the whistle on their chief.

It is not clear what motivated the three — bad conscience, or, as some analysts have suggested, an attempted putsch inside the Shin Bet. But their actions resulted in their dismissal from the service, to be followed by that of Mr Shalom and Mr Hazak.

This left the Shin Bet bereft of its top leadership at a time when its public standing was at a low ebb and its internal morale at rock bottom.

The Shin Bet received a further debilitating blow at the beginning of 1987 when a Circassian army officer, Lieutenant Izat Nafsu, complained that he had been jailed

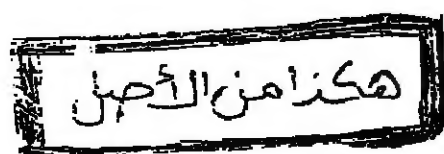
for 18 years on a false espionage charge fabricated by his Shin Bet investigators. Lieutenant Nafsu's case was reopened and he was absolved last May.

The decision to recall Mr Harmelin, derived first and foremost from the desire to entrust the service, not to an outsider, but to a veteran who knew the service inside out and would be able to stabilize it before handing it over to a serving career officer.

The open publicity given to his impending resignation would seem to be, at least in part, a deliberate effort by the Government to reassure the public that Mr Harmelin has managed to rehabilitate the Shin Bet.

Mr Harmelin's resignation today is to coincide with that of another shadowy Israeli figure, Mr Amiram Nir, the Prime Minister's special adviser on terrorism.

Mr Nir is reported to have liaised closely with Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, who is now standing trial in the United States over the Iran-Contra arms scandal.



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# Decision day for Botham elephant

From Alan Franks  
Nairobi

The elephant will have a second day of the expedition, launched in the morning, for the last time. The expedition, led by Mr. David Taylor, will be pulled out of the country if the elephant does not make a recovery by tomorrow.

Salisbury, one of the elephants on loan from the British Government, has been given a 24-hour ultimatum by the expedition. Mr. David Taylor, who is in the charge of the elephant, said that if the elephant does not make a recovery by tomorrow, it will be pulled out of the country.

She would have a second day of the expedition, launched in the morning, for the last time. The expedition, led by Mr. David Taylor, will be pulled out of the country if the elephant does not make a recovery by tomorrow.

Mr. Taylor said that this type of condition is common in elephants. It is a sign of a serious illness, and it is a sign that the elephant is in a very poor state of health. He said that the elephant would not be able to walk, and it would not be able to eat.

For the rest of the day, the elephant will be kept in a stable, and it will be given a lot of food and water. The elephant will be kept in a stable until it is able to walk and eat again.

During the expedition, the elephant was kept in a stable, and it was given a lot of food and water. The elephant was kept in a stable until it was able to walk and eat again. The elephant was kept in a stable until it was able to walk and eat again.



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## Violence in South African force

## Two policemen to hang for killing 'ANC drug-runners'

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

One of South Africa's top detectives, Captain Jack la Grange, and another policeman, Detective-Sergeant Robert van der Merwe, were yesterday each sentenced to death twice over in the Rand Supreme Court for murder.

Van der Merwe told the court he had killed two men and attempted to kill a third at la Grange's bidding in the belief that the three men were members of the outlawed African National Congress, and whose "elimination" had been ordered by "head office".

He said he believed that the orders came from President Botha himself or "at least a general".

In an unusual plea in mitigation, the defence counsel, Mr W. Maritz, argued that a political climate in which the Government itself was not above acting under the law should be accepted as extenuating circumstances.

Referring to the raid by South African commandos into Botswana earlier this week, in which four people were killed, Mr Maritz said that had his client been a member of the security forces he would have been "rewarded with a medal".

Mr Maritz submitted that

van der Merwe's killing last year of two Coloured (mixed-race) alleged drug smugglers, Bennie Ogle and Godfrey Pillay, had to be seen in the context of a police force where violence had become "almost a sub-culture".

The dapper la Grange, van

der Merwe's accomplice, was chief of the East Rand murder and robbery squad. But according to the evidence, he spent more time arranging for people to be killed than catching murderers.

The court heard that la Grange had been paid by Mr

Pillay to kill Mr Ogle and Mr Ernest Molokoane, a Soweto building contractor. He then persuaded van der Merwe that all three were drug smugglers and members of the ANC.

During the trial, la Grange maintained that he was never at the scene of the shootings and that he had never ordered van der Merwe to kill anyone.

Van der Merwe told the court that he had idolized la Grange. He also confessed to having feelings of "pure hatred" for the ANC, partly as a result of having been inside the Johannesburg Magistrates' Court last year when a car-bomb exploded outside, killing four policemen and wounding 15 other people.

●Mandela degree: Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the ANC, is expected to qualify for a law degree before the end of the year, the University of South Africa disclosed. He needs only to complete a few ancillary subjects to obtain the degree.

●Bona protest: The West German Ambassador to South Africa, Herr Immo Stabreit, has delivered a strong protest on behalf of the EEC to the Foreign Ministry in Cape Town, condemning the raid last Monday into Botswana.

## More firms leave

Johannesburg — In the latest foreign corporate disinvestments from South Africa, Newmont Mining of America is to dispose of its holdings in five South African companies, and Britain's Metal Box company is also selling out to local interests (Michael Hornsby writes).

Newmont has disclosed that it will receive about \$30 million for its holdings in Palabora Mining, Tsamab, O'okiep Copper, Gamsberg Zinc and Highveld Steel and Vanadium. It was learnt yesterday that the purchaser of most of these assets is Gold Fields of South Africa.

Inevitably, Newmont's pull-out will be seen as a response to political pressure, but commentators here say that the company is struggling under a heavy debt burden.

Metal Box is selling its 25 per cent interest in the packaging firm, Nampak, and its 25 per cent holding in Robor Industrial Holdings, to Barlow Rand.

Companies disposing of South African investments in 1985-88:

	UK	US
1985	6	40
1986	14	50
1987	39	54
1988 (to March)	5*	6**
Total	64	152

\* UK: Rover Group, Metal Box, British Steel, BT (Passenger group), Suter (part), intending to go: Alexon Group, Allied Lyons, Glynwed Int'l.  
\*\* US: American Home Products, D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles, Ford, Harper Group, IMS Int'l, ITT, Merck & Co, Revlon

## Tanker ablaze after missile attack



A salvage tug helping the Cypriot supertanker Haven after she was set ablaze by missiles from an Iranian frigate in the southern Gulf.

Iran said later that it fired three missiles at Iranian cities yesterday after the shelling of the Haven on Wednesday night (Reuters reports from Nicosia).

Shipping sources said that the 232,200-tonne Haven, which was carrying Saudi oil worth \$22 million (£11.8 million), ran aground in the Strait of Hormuz after the attack, one of Iran's fiercest this year. They said there was a serious danger of pollution from the blazing tanker, which stuck fast against a

breakwater off the small port of Mina Sagr in the United Arab Emirates. No injuries were reported among the 45 crew, mostly Filipinos.

Baghdad Radio said one missile was fired at Iran's holy city of Qom and two at Esfahan, the former Persian capital south of Tehran. Iraq had said earlier it would call a unilateral halt to missile attacks on Iranian cities from today until Sunday, while the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, will be visiting Baghdad, Turkey, which borders both Iran and Iraq, is neutral in the war.

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, yesterday urged Iranians to

intensity the war against Iraq. "Hostilities today will lead to enslavement tomorrow," the 85-year-old leader said in a message on Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia. "Rush to the war fronts and stamp out the enemy's enemy with successive blows."

The Iranian news agency Iran said that Iranian jets had inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi positions and troops near the southern port of Basra. It also said that anti-aircraft fire brought down an Iraqi Sukhoi 22 fighter-bomber over Iraq's north-eastern province of Sulaymaniyah, where Iranian forces have launched a new offensive.

## Soviet drive on corruption

## 170,000 police fall to purges

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

As a result of the continuing crackdown against widespread corruption inside the Soviet police force, more than 170,000 police officers have been dismissed over the past five years for irresponsibility, indiscipline and violations of the law.

The figure took Western observers by surprise. It was provided yesterday by Mr Alexander Vlasov, the Interior Minister, who told *Kommunist*, the influential theoretical journal, that a campaign to eliminate police corruption which began late in 1982 proved "only to be the start of a large amount of personnel work".

Officials refused to provide *The Times* with figures for the total size of the Soviet police force but, as any visitor to Moscow can observe by the sheer numbers of uniformed men on the ground, it is believed to be one of the largest in the world.

"One has to admit that incidents of arrest and detention without cause, beatings up and other serious violations and even crimes have still not been eliminated," Mr Vlasov said in the most damning exposé of the extent of Soviet police malpractices yet published here.

The minister revealed that between 1983 and 1985 a total of 161,000 policemen had been dismissed. In addition, more than 9,000 were dismissed last year but the article gave no figures for 1986.

Despite the campaign to stamp out corrupt police practices, most Soviet drivers still carry a 10-ruble (£10) note tucked into their driving licence as ready payment to bribe their way out of one of the numerous petty offences for which they are frequently whistled up.

In recent months, a series of articles has appeared in the Soviet press about serious miscarriages of justice arising

from false testimonies, often obtained through beatings and other shortcomings in police work.

On Wednesday, *Kommunist* said that the Communist Party's youth wing, disclosed that in Moscow alone more than 1,000 corrupt policemen were dismissed last year, 67 of them being subsequently expelled from the party and 47 convicted of various offences.

The paper, which in the past has been severely criticized by the police for its frank reporting of Moscow's chronic prostitution problem, noted that relations between the press and police had deteriorated and called for more dialogue to "provide a constructive approach to many still unsolved problems".

Reporting a briefing given for Soviet and East bloc reporters by the Moscow administration for internal affairs, the paper noted that correspondents present pressed officials to explain why Soviet policemen were so notoriously rude when approached in the street. "Teach them to smile," one reporter said.

Officials admitted that many Soviet workers had complained about what was described as "the rude and tactless behaviour of militiamen".

One of the most sensational cases involving the police occurred last year when a former police officer was sentenced to death for his part in an armed raid on a Moscow department store in which he disguised himself in police uniform.

One accomplice, a former Soviet military prosecutor, was sentenced to 10 years hard labour for acting as lookout and another, a former KGB officer who was wounded in the raid, was murdered by his own associates who feared that he might confess.

## Four die in Cairo cattle flight crash

Cairo (AP) — A Nigerian cargo plane, carrying 50 cows and other cargo for an Egyptian air transport company, crashed on its second attempt to take off from Cairo International Airport yesterday, killing the American pilot and three Nigerian crewmen. Mr Ahmed Salem, the head of operations of ZAS, the Egyptian charterer, said the DC8 crashed on desert terrain just beyond the runway as it took off for Sharjah.

## Plot charges

Mombasa (AFP) — The leader of the banned opposition Liberia Unification Party, Mr William Gabriel Kpoh, and 12 others will be tried on charges of treason related to a plot against President Doe.

## Tax cheat

Stockholm — Mr Karl Erik Erikson, the Liberal MP and Deputy Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, resigned from the House after being convicted of falsifying accounts to evade tax.

## Chagall show

Paris (AP) — More than 400 works by the Russian-born French painter, Marc Chagall, turned over in lieu of death taxes, have gone on show here.

## Peking pass

Peking (Reuters) — China gave last-minute clearance to British Airways for a new service to Peking.

## Floods alert

East Berlin (Reuters) — Thousands of civil defence officials strengthened flood barriers as the River Elbe threatened to reach its highest level in 40 years in some parts.

## Plane tragedy

Dar es Salaam (AP) — A Tanzanian National Parks aircraft crashed on a Lake Victoria island and all five people on board are feared dead.

## Cat Aids

Tokyo (Reuters) — Every third cat seen by Tokyo veterinarians in the past year was suffering from an AIDS-like virus which cannot be passed on to humans.

## Golden joke

Beeston (Reuters) — An 11lb "gold nugget" unearthed by a Queensland fruitgrower was a gold-painted, lead-and-clay April Fools' prank.

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## Presidential campaign in France

## Mitterrand shuns holiday to finish his 'grand plan'

From Philip Jackson, Paris

While millions of French voters will be celebrating the Easter holiday, the man who now dominates the campaign will be working flat out on his highly personal manifesto.

Hunched over a vast table in the Elysée Palace, President Mitterrand is scribbling far into the night to complete what he calls *le projet*, a four-page document which sets out his objectives for the next seven years if — being somewhat superstitious, he would never say when — the people return him to power.

As the author of several well-received works, the President takes writing seriously, but his staff are beginning to fidget. Their aim is to deliver the great work, in the form of a four-page circular, to every household in the country by this time next week, when publication of the final list of candidates marks the official opening of the campaign.

Since the French are already somewhat punch-drunk with election publicity, Mitterrand's finest phrases may well

be doomed to go straight into the dustbin.

On the evidence of the opinion polls taken after the President announced that he would run again, he now seems to be a racing certainty to beat whoever of M. Jacques Chirac and M. Raymond Barre carries the conservative colours in the second round.

The small print of the latest flurry of polls makes particularly sweet reading for the Mitterrand camp. While the vast majority of his own



M. Chirac: Failing to pick up supporters from his rivals.

supporters swear that nothing will change their mind before polling day, the President's apparently unstoppable momentum leads one-third of M. Barre's supporters and almost a quarter of M. Chirac's to concede that he now looks the likely winner.

Even more significant is the remarkable 32 per cent of those backing the ultra-right-wing National Front in the first round who say they intend to vote for M. Mitterrand if it comes to a duel with M. Chirac.

Despite the bluster of the National Front's leader, M. Jean-Marie Le Pen, about demanding the next political "price" for his second-round support, it was widely assumed until now that M. Chirac would have the extreme right in the bag. Yet on the latest count well under half of prospective National Front voters see themselves backing him in the run-off (the comparative figure for M. Barre is exactly 50 per cent).

Equally encouraging for M. Mitterrand's strategists are in-

dications that, in spite of the sharp fall in M. Barre's ratings — now as low as 16 per cent — M. Chirac no longer seems to be vacuuming up support from his conservative rival.

According to Elysée insiders, the tone of the Mitterrand campaign until polling day on April 24 will be, well, presidential. It seems that he does not intend to overdo the television appearances, judging, correctly enough, that the average French viewer has already had too much politics on the small screen.

Let us leave the last word to M. Pierre Joxe, a Socialist Party notable whose admission for M. Mitterrand knows no bounds. Irrited by suggestions that M. Mitterrand intends to keep the party he founded firmly at arm's length in the last lap, M. Joxe told journalists that we had got it wrong.

"M. Mitterrand is not the Socialist candidate. He is someone whom we recognize and support but he is escaping from us, and I can tell you that we're proud of this."

## Storms flood the Outback



Children riding their bicycles through knee-deep water in Todd Mall, central Alice Springs, yesterday after floods swept through the driest part of the Australian Outback.

Alice Springs was cut off, with all roads to the north and south flooded, after the River Todd burst its banks. Large numbers of farm animals drowned when they were caught in the torrent.

One Aboriginal woman drowned and at least four others were missing. Many escaped by clambering up trees to await rescue by helicopter, and about 50 others caught in the torrent managed to scramble to safety.

The floods, the worst for 70 years, came after storms in which the equivalent of the town's average annual rainfall fell within 24 hours.

Hundreds of tourists were stranded and hotels had to be evacuated. Residents abandoned their homes to move to higher ground.

Mr Steve Haddon, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, said provisional plans

were under way to declare a state of emergency. He said the disaster could have been avoided if flood-irrigation lakes had been built along the river.

"This would not have happened if these lakes had been built," he said.

Although the flood waters have started to recede, more thunderstorms are forecast.

● McMahon dies: Sir William McMahon, who became Australia's oldest Prime Minister in 1971 at the age of 63, died yesterday, aged 80, after a long battle against cancer.

Obituary, page 18

## Four aces break French lottery's bank

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

It was exactly a 4,096 to one chance, but the day they broke the bank at the French National Lottery came on Tuesday night, when 22,000 of the 63,000 people who filled in their coupons of chance came out as winners.

The part of the National Lottery that will see its coffers emptied today, when it must pay out 104 million francs (£9.95 million) in winnings, is the ninety-five-minute television gamble called *Tapis Vert* (Green Baize), presented after the news on the private First Channel.

An unbeatable four aces brought the lottery's downfall in the not overtaxing

game of trying to guess, by filling in a coupon beforehand, which combination of numbers and suits will come up.

Addicts play nightly and filling in the four aces on the coupons is always a favourite. On Tuesday evening sitting-rooms all over France erupted in whoops of delight as the magic four-ace combination came up on the screen.

Unlike other national lottery games, where an overall sum of money is divided between the winners, *Tapis Vert* allows individuals to win up to a thousand times the amount they bet if they guess all four cards correctly. The

super winner was a man in Perpignan, who amused himself by repeating his four-ace prediction on six different coupons, betting a total of 187 francs (£17.89). He is 187,000 francs richer. A hundred other people have passed the 100,000-franc mark.

A spokesman for the National Lottery put a brave face on it yesterday, explaining that when they conceived this new way of earning money for the State's coffers five months ago they put aside extra funds for just such an occurrence. However, he added, it will take them months to get back in the black again.

## Finance Ministry plays Cupid to Singapore singles

By Gavin Bell

Unit 01 of the Ministry of Finance, on the 40th floor of the towering Treasury building in Singapore, is perhaps a curious place to find Cupid.

Yet it is from this unlikely love-nest that government officials direct an innovative and occasionally controversial scheme to encourage well-educated women to marry and produce children for the good of the nation.

Alarmed by a declining population and in particular by a growing number of unmarried women university graduates, the Government is providing a free match-making service for graduates and for those with secondary school qualifications.

The romantic endeavours of the Social Development Unit, strangely a division of the Finance Ministry, are said to be successful, but it was not always so.

Charges of elitism and genetic engineering followed the unit's creation by Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, who believes that genet-



Mr Lee: Believes genetics determine abilities.

ics determine a person's abilities. A scheme which gave preference to education to children whose mothers were graduates was dropped after a public outcry.

Dr Eileen Aw, director of the Social Development Unit, rejects suggestions of meddling with nature. "We focus on women graduates for the simple reason that 40 per cent of them are not marrying. There is no coercion or loss of freedom."

According to Dr Aw, many of Singapore's 10,000 women graduates are left on the shelf because of career commitments, and a tradition of men preferring less well-educated wives.

Thus only graduates are introduced to the lonely academics, although men without degrees who have advanced to executive positions with high salaries may be "upgraded" to the top bracket. Those with only secondary-school qualifications are channelled into a separate group.

They may engage in computer dating and participate in social events ranging from afternoon tea dances to river safaris in Sarawak and courses on buying used cars. A "love cruise" for 260 bright young things was not repeated,

after the boys eyed all the girls indiscriminately, instead of concentrating on those in their designated groups.

However, the course of true love appears to have run smoothly for 411 (graduate) couples, who have made it to the altar under the unit's auspices in the past three years. The unit now boasts almost 40,000 members, with wedding bells ringing more than 20 times a month.

But Dr Aw concedes that many of Singapore's most talented women will remain spinsters.

The broader issues of population decline are being tackled by the Ministry of Health, which recently created some confusion and dismay by reversing a vigorous birth control policy. After more than two decades of being urged to stop at two children, Singaporeans are now being asked to have three, and more if they can afford it.

Introducing the new policy last year, Mr Goh Chok Tong, the First Deputy Prime Minister, said: "It was aimed at all who were 'under-performing' in reproductive terms. We have to accept changes as part of life. There is no choice. Those women who had themselves sterilised under the earlier policy had to accept this, he said."

The sudden reversal followed a survey that showed the fertility rate had plummeted from 3.07 in 1976 to 1.44 in 1986, well below the "replacement" rate of 2.1.

The last figure was exceptional, since 1986 was the Year of the Tiger which, in Asian societies, is not regarded as propitious for marrying or bearing children. If it were maintained, however, the population would be halved by the year 2100.

The Government has introduced benefits for the productive, including tax incentives, preferential housing allocations and school registrations, and extended maternity leave.

An obstacle is an astonishingly high rate of abortions, a vestige of the old birth control programme, which are available on demand for less than £2. It is estimated that of 60,000 conceptions last year, a third were aborted. Dr Paul Cheung, director of the Population Planning Unit, says the problem is hard to solve. "If you tighten the law, they will go underground."

Dr Cheung is defensive of government policies, in view of past criticism. "Some people consider Singapore as some kind of freak country, because we tend to be innovative. But we know our dilemma and the objections very well, and we keep our feet on the ground, I think."

His only concern, he says, is that "if we are too successful with the present policy, we may have to change again."

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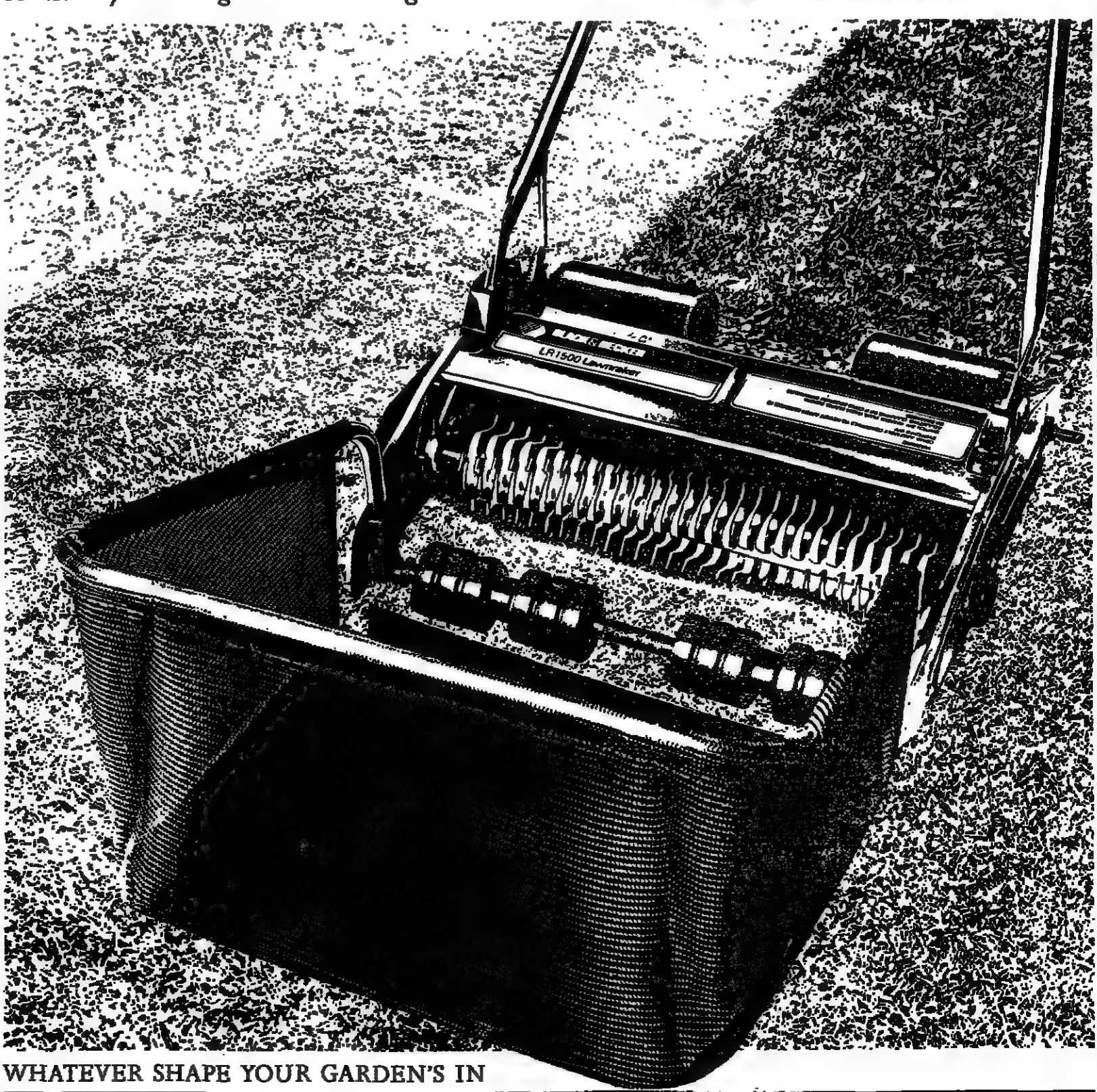
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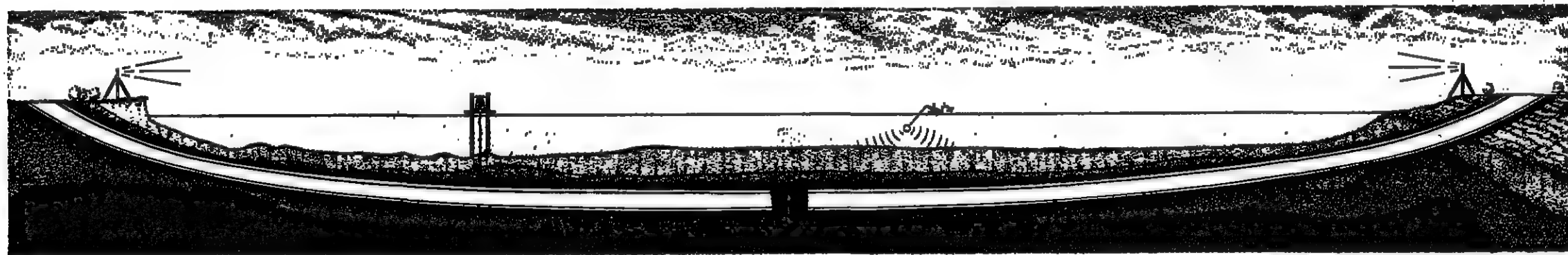
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# Chun brother held for corruption

From Gavin Bell  
Seoul

South Korea's new Government has moved swiftly to avert political damage from a corruption scandal by arresting the brother of the former President Chun Doo Hwan on charges of embezzlement, accepting bribes and evading taxes.

When the mighty fall in Korea, they tend to do so with a resounding crash. Thus Mr Chun Kyung Hwan, aged 46, was jailed in a blaze of publicity yesterday after being interrogated for two days about the clandestine activities of a powerful rural development agency which he directed under the patronage of his brother until last year.

Prosecutors say that the inscrutable martial arts enthusiast amassed a fortune in secret bank accounts, investments and illegal property deals by peddling his influence at high levels of government and big business over seven years.

They are also investigating alleged links with gangland killings in a "hostess" bar in Seoul in 1986, and with a handicrafts company whose president led 32 of her cult followers in a bizarre mass suicide pact last August.

Investigators say Mr Chun diverted £10 million from the Saemaul (New Community) movement to private projects, and real estate and share investments. Of that sum, he is said to have embezzled almost £6 million.

Much of it is said to have been used to acquire an eight-storey shopping centre in Seoul at below its market price a year ago. It has since tripled in value.

The head of another department store is alleged to have paid Mr Chun £150,000 to persuade government officials to raise his stockholding limit in a luxury hotel.

Three of Mr Chun's senior associates were also detained yesterday, bringing the total of arrests to nine so far. They



Mr Chun Kyung Hwan being taken to prison in handcuffs after his arrest yesterday.

include two of his brothers-in-law, one of whom attempted suicide on Tuesday by trying to bite off his tongue, smashing his head against a wash-room basin, and then trying to leap from the fifth floor of a hospital ward.

Mr Chun is expected to be formally indicted shortly before important parliamentary elections scheduled for April 26. If found guilty, he faces a minimum of five years imprisonment on the emb-

arrassment charges, and similar sentences for related offences.

His activities during the authoritarian regime of his brother have aroused considerable public anger. By-standers cheered when a construction worker slapped Mr Chun on the face and shouted "Bastard" as he was being hustled into a prosecutor's office this week.

Dong-a Ilbo, an influential daily, called for a wider in-

quiry into the administrative system which it said had allowed Mr Chun to embezzle public funds with impunity and arrogance. In particular, it demanded the prosecution of tax agency officials.

Analysts attribute the swiftness of the arrests partly to concern in the ruling Democratic Justice Party that the affair could damage its prospects in the forthcoming elections.

It is also seen as an indirect

attempt to prevent his elder brother from retaining any influence in government. The former President has been appointed to lead a council of elder statesmen, and it is in this capacity that he is presently touring the United States, where he recently met President Reagan.

"A lot of people in the new administration don't like Chun and want to make sure he has no future role," a diplomatic source said. "By disgracing his brother, they discredit Chun. It is an effective way of keeping him on the sidelines."

Mr Roh Tae Woo, who became President under a new democratic constitution in February, is clearly resolved to avoid the taint of corruption associated with the old regime. Mr Roh announced yesterday that he will make his assets public next month, in accordance with an election pledge.

● TOKYO: A South Korean film-maker who escaped from North Korean captivity in 1986 says that Mr Kim Jong Il, the son of President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, could launch an invasion of the South before the Seoul Olympics (AFP reports).

"As a man who knows Kim Jong Il's personality very well, I am really worried that the North might wage an all-out war before the Seoul Olympics," Mr Shin Sang Ok said in an interview with the Japanese edition of Playboy.

Although Mr Kim Jong Il could not go against his 75-year-old father, the President had weaker judgement and was considerably aged, Mr Shin and his actress wife, Choi Eun Hui, were allegedly kidnapped in Hong Kong in 1978 on the orders of Mr Kim Jong Il in an bid to help upgrade North Korea's film industry. They defected to the US in Vienna in 1986.

Mr Kim Jong Il has stood second in the North Korean leadership since 1980 when he was elected the second-ranked party secretary.

# Rover deal is helped by EEC ruling on Renault

From Richard Owen, Brussels

EEC officials have said that a European Commission ruling allowing the French Government to write off some of Renault's debts and pump investment money into the ailing car company could set a precedent for the British Aerospace-Rover Group deal announced on Tuesday by Lord Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

The Commission's investigations into Renault and Rover are examples of the way that EEC merger control is acquiring a high profile in the run-up to a frontier-free Europe in 1992.

But the officials said that the Commission's investigation into the Rover deal could take months rather than weeks and that Mr Peter Sutherland, the Commissioner for Competition Policy, was "in no mood to give the British Government an easy ride".

There is concern that the proposed huge write-off of debts would give Rover an unfair competitive edge in Europe through government subsidy.

"The £150 million sale price seems low and the debt write-off (£1.1 billion) and capital injection (£800 million) seem high," one official said in an initial reaction.

The Commission is already investigating the sale of Alfa-

Romeo to Fiat for "an artificially low price".

One outcome being forecast here is that Brussels will allow state aid to Rover at a level lower than the proposed £800 million and that Rover will have to meet strict conditions to qualify for the aid, including a detailed commitment to restructuring the company, as in the Renault case.

Mr Sutherland, Ireland's representative on the 17-man Commission, is pushing for stronger EEC control over proposed mergers as the single European market approaches in 1992. The aim is to ensure that merged European conglomerates do not distort competition by achieving the type of dominant market position forbidden by the Treaty of Rome.

"It could be unfortunate for Rover and Lord Young that EEC merger policy is being toughened up for 1992," one source said. "Mr Sutherland will be keen to show he is no pushover." Still only 41, Mr Sutherland is a contender to take over the crucial 1992 portfolio in the Commission if Lord Cockfield's mandate is not renewed by Mrs Thatcher at the end of the year.

The Renault ruling, announced this week, is not strictly parallel with the BAe-Rover merger. No takeover is

involved, and the amounts of government money are much smaller.

But the Commission ruled that Renault could receive £2 billion of government funds provided it carried out a thorough restructuring programme and shed its government-backed status to become a normal public company. If this is not done, the Brussels permission for the aid will be withdrawn.

Significantly for Rover, the ruling justified the concession to Renault in terms of the difficulties encountered by European motor manufacturers since the early 1980s because of overcapacity and fierce competition from overseas, notably Japan. The ruling noted that Renault was reducing its production capacity by 25 per cent.

One theory circulating in Brussels this week was that the Government had pitched its proposed state aid to Rover deliberately high, leaving room for bargaining between Mr Sutherland and Lord Young. The two men met in Brussels last week.

A similar process took place over Leyland's sale of its truck division to Daf of Holland, when the Commission reduced the amount of aid the Government could put into Leyland before selling it.

# Spain approves transit deal

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Cabinet has approved an agreement with Morocco to allow the transit through Spain of exports of citrus fruits, tomatoes and early potatoes from the North African country to the EEC.

Spain is obliged to allow such transit by 1990, both as a member of the EEC and as a signatory to Gatt. However, the influential citrus fruit

exporters lobby in Valencia was complaining yesterday that it had not been consulted. In the past there have been threats that lorries carrying Moroccan exports might be treated in the same way as French farmers have disrupted Spanish exports.

This year and next Moroccan early potatoes to be transported by rail or road through

Spain will be limited to only 4 per cent of Spanish exports of the same product to EEC destinations, Moroccan tomatoes to 2 per cent and citrus fruits to only 1 per cent. From 1990 the Moroccans will be entitled to unrestricted transit.

Spain must bear in mind that Andalusian and Canary islands fishing fleets depend on Moroccan goodwill.

# Rights abuses in Chile

# Pinochet turns to military courts

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

There was a knock on the door. My father-in-law opened it. Two heavy, scruffy-looking men asked for me. Before he had time to blink, the interrogation began: Who are you, why does she live with you, what does she do in Chile, who's she married to. My father-in-law did not invite them in; the question and answer session was conducted entirely on the doorstep.

Three days and a myriad of telephone calls later, we received an explanation: I had been investigated as part of an "open-ended order" by a military court but, not to worry, the investigation was over. No one explained its purpose, nor did anyone apologize for the disruption of our lives, as members of the Central Nacional de Informaciones (CNI) the secret police, questioned family and friends.

Chileans have become accustomed to visits like this one, and to hearing that thousands of private medical records have been seized, typewriters "arrested", tens of thousands of homes raided by troops and police, private bank records (of people not accused of any crime) handed over to police — all the result of "open-ended" orders issued by the military courts.

"From 1986 on, the repressive method favoured by the dictatorship... is judicial repression," said Señor Roo Garretón, a lawyer and founding member of the Catholic Church's human rights Vigilante. "Selective, criminal-style repression is still used. But they also try to give the idea that it's not the regime which is repressing but rather that the courts are simply enforcing the law."

Before the 1973 military coup, military courts routinely handled cases involving members of the armed forces. After, the carabinieri, Chile's uniformed police, became a branch of the armed forces. For the next 10 years repression of the regime's opponents was selective, shielded by heavy media censorship and a judicial system which arbitrarily ignored thousands of requests for protection.

The military regime began to file charges against opposition leaders in the civilian courts when silent disagreement exploded into massive street protests in 1983. But higher courts routinely allowed the accused to go free on bail and, on occasion, overturned sentences.

The efforts of a handful of persistent civilian judges did not please the Government either. They found military officers had been involved in the forced disappearance of dissenting Chileans, the deliberate burning of two teenagers during an anti-regime protest, the shooting of a French priest, and the brutal murder of three men in 1985. Although culprits were quickly rescued by a special amnesty law or the military courts themselves, the judges' find-

ings damaged the Government's image.

In 1986, General Pinochet created the position of Ad Hoc Military Prosecutor and appointed his former adviser, Colonel Fernando Torres Silva. Since then, Colonel Torres has become a familiar face on Chilean television, as lights and cameras have followed his investigations.

Some critics of the regime, like journalist Señora Monica González, face charges in both court systems.

Last December, General Pinochet charged her with libel in a civilian court. In March, the Government again filed charges against her, this time in a military court, in response to an interview she did while in prison with one of Colonel Torres's prisoners, Señora Karin Eitel.

In the interview, Señora Eitel, who disappeared for 34 days after her arrest, gave a graphic description of how she had been tortured. She and Señora González have been accused of libelling the armed forces.

Colonel Torres and his colleagues have received the Santiago — Unidentified civilians fired on more than 300 high-school pupils as they tried to march in memory of a communist teacher, Manuel Guerrero, assassinated three years ago (Lake Sagaris writes). Several men in a pickup truck, similar to those used by the police, chased the children, firing at their feet.

Although the military's constitution seems to enshrine human rights, these are limited "by other values considered superior", according to a 1986 Chilean Human Rights Commission analysis.

In June 1987, an operation by 500 agents confirmed the commission's fears that the military courts, not civilian authorities, will supervise the CNI even after the new constitution is fully implemented in 1997. Days after headlines announced that the CNI could no longer hold prisoners on its premises, its agents killed 12 opponents of the Government, in what they said were armed confrontations with the Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front.

However, when the commission investigated, it discovered that in almost every case there was no evidence that the dead men and women had fired or even been armed. Señora Ambrosio Rodríguez, a government lawyer, tried to justify the CNI's actions. They had "acted according to an open-ended court order to investigate", he said.

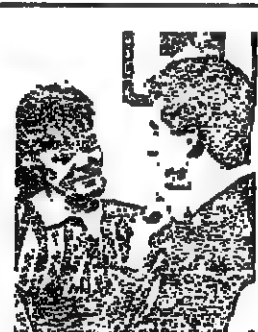
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19	5,499	10,842	11,979	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
20	5,404	10,850	11,999	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
21	5,309	10,858	12,019	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
22	5,214	10,866	12,039	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
23	5,119	10,874	12,059	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
24	5,024	10,882	12,079	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
25	4,929	10,890	12,099	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
26	4,834	10,898	12,119	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
27	4,739	10,906	12,139	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
28	4,644	10,914	12,159	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
29	4,549	10,922	12,179	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
30	4,454	10,930	12,199	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
31	4,359	10,938	12,219	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
32	4,264	10,946	12,239	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
33	4,169	10,954	12,259	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
34	4,074	10,962	12,279	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
35	3,979	10,970	12,299	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
36	3,884	10,978	12,319	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
37	3,789	10,986	12,339	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
38	3,694	10,994	12,359	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
39	3,599	11,002	12,379	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
40	3,504	11,010	12,399	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
41	3,409	11,018	12,419	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
42	3,314	11,026	12,439	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
43	3,219	11,034	12,459	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
44	3,124	11,042	12,479	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
45	3,029	11,050	12,499	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
46	2,934	11,058	12,519	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
47	2,839	11,066	12,539	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
48	2,744	11,074	12,559	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
49	2,649	11,082	12,579	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
50	2,554	11,090	12,599	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
51	2,459	11,098	12,619	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
52	2,364	11,106	12,639	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
53	2,269	11,114	12,659	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
54	2,174	11,122	12,679	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
55	2,079	11,130	12,699	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
56	1,984	11,138	12,719	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
57	1,889	11,146	12,739	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
58	1,794	11,154	12,759	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
59	1,699	11,162	12,779	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
60	1,604	11,170	12,799	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
61	1,509	11,178	12,819	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
62	1,414	11,186	12,839	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
63	1,319	11,194	12,859	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
64	1,224	11,202	12,879	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
65	1,129	11,210	12,899	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
66	1,034	11,218	12,919	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
67	939	11,226	12,939	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
68	844	11,234	12,959	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
69	749	11,242	12,979	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
70	654	11,250	12,999	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
71	559	11,258	13,019	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
72	464	11,266	13,039	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
73	369	11,274	13,059	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
74	274	11,282	13,079	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
75	179	11,290	13,099	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
76	84	11,298	13,119	109,600	17,742	13,015,250	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318
77	-	1	-	-	-	-	38	5,598	11,016	12,016	11,880	18,318

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# The once and future Kings

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character...

Martin Luther King, Washington, June 15 1963

Twenty years on, the spring is coming again to Martin Luther King's Georgia, bringing green and warmth to the little Ebenezer Baptist Church where he so often preached his vision of a promised land of racial harmony. His four children have grown up, the civil rights movement has fallen into neglect, and the "symphony of brotherhood" that King dreamed of is still far from achieved. "I really don't think my father's dream has gone wrong. It just has not been fulfilled," says Martin Luther King III, now aged 30 and working in his own right to finish the business of America's prophet-hero.

Few in America would disagree with him. As the country takes stock two decades on, it is clear that King wrought a revolution that cannot be reversed, but also that black and white still have far to travel before making peace. A soft-spoken and pleasant young man, Martin King "Marty" to his family - is the only one of those "four little children" to pursue a political career. In 1986 he was elected one of six commissioners, or directors, of Fulton County, the district that includes Atlanta. He had been urged to run by Mayor Andrew Young, who, as President Jimmy Carter's UN Ambassador, was the first black to reach high office in the United States. "Uncle Andy" became a father-figure to the King children, in particular the two boys, Martin and Dexter. He lacks his father's power and sense of destiny. "I think that people like that come only every now and then; but I am compelled to do something and I will always be involved in some way because throughout my life I feel people will be oppressed."

The four children grew up to learn that, despite the victories of their father's movement, to be black in America is still to be

So what happened to those four children? Did the dream die with Martin Luther King in Memphis on April 4, 1968? Twenty years on, Charles Bremner sought them out

second-class. They see it as a duty to live up to the life of their father, although the younger ones hardly knew him.

Yolanda, now aged 31, runs a local theatre company and directs the Martin Luther King Centre in Atlanta along with her brother Martin and their mother. The other daughter, Bernice, aged 24, is studying theology and law. Dexter, aged 27, the one whose manner most resembles that of his father, works in video and film, and sings. He has begun travelling and speaking out like his brother. "Black people are still not free," he said last month. "The discrimination we see in the Eighties and the years to come is more tricky than it was in the Sixties. You may not be discriminated against to your face, but it's happening."

Dexter King says he is appalled at the lack of self-confidence of young American blacks. "I was surprised that many of them did not know who Martin Luther King was. They don't see how they can be a part of keeping the dream alive. History can repeat itself if a group of people don't know their history, they are bound to make the same mistakes."

While some may never have heard of the civil rights leader, his

successors took heart this month from a national opinion poll of young people. Asked whom they most revered as a hero, a majority of Americans under 45 years old replied: Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy.

For his children, MLK is very much a presence. "With many people, you start talking about death and they start crying," Martin King says. "But when we talk about our father it's not that way. Maybe it's because to some degree we still see him as living. His legacy lives. We are part of that legacy and must keep it going."

If his father came back to today's Georgia, "he would be pleased yet sad", King says, sitting in his comfortable office on the second floor of Atlanta's county administration. "He'd just be hurt that this country continues, less than 12 years from the year 2000, to have a lack of concern for the least of these, our brethren."

The South and America at large have come a long way from segregation laws that kept "niggers" on the back of the bus and allowed the rampages of the Ku-Klux-Klan, but the wall is still there.

King points to progress in local politics. Six big cities - Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Washington, Philadelphia and Atlanta - have black mayors; they are among 7,000 black elected officials. "Who would have ever thought 20 years ago that the mayor of Birmingham, where my father had one of his major campaigns, would have been a black man? We've made phenomenal progress - but it's still less than one half of one per cent."

Apart from the cases of individuals such as Bill Cosby, the entertainer, blacks are still being kept out of the upper reaches of American society, King says. "In



Family album: Martin Luther King III, aged three, with his father, sister and mother. Inset: King today



business, they get to a certain level and never get promoted."

White Americans still teach their children to hate, he says, and no one is more to blame in the past seven years than President Reagan - a view that is shared by the civil rights movement as a whole. Under the Reagan administration, social and education spending has been cut and the President has made no stand on race. Last week Reagan vetoed a new civil rights bill.

"You've got institutionalized racism now," King says. "It has to change from the top. If the president were setting an example then corporate America would follow suit."

His words are being echoed increasingly across America as the country at large emerges from the

happy prosperity of the Reagan years and recognizes that while a fragile black middle class has developed, about two and a half million others are sinking ever deeper into poverty, crime and illiteracy. Their plight is presenting the country with its biggest social problem in the closing years of the century.

Many white Americans are reluctant to accept responsibility for the failures that have produced this underclass, saying the blacks have been guaranteed their rights for two decades and their problems are their own. Of the Democratic presidential candidates, only Jesse Jackson is tackling the black poverty issue head on, though he has yet to make clear how he would raise money for the programmes he proposes.

For Martin King, the success of Jackson - who began his career as an assistant to Martin Luther King in the 1960s - is proof of the progress that has been made. "I think Jesse Jackson's running has shown us that blacks can win. I think you can win if the message is right, regardless of colour. I think he has broken that barrier." But, he notes, on the other hand there are the millions of Americans

telling pollsters that they would never vote for Jackson because of his colour.

A graduate of Morehouse, his father's old Atlanta university, King says he aims to seek higher office, possibly in Congress, and he thinks his father would be proud of him. He might, he says, go on to a seminary and seek ordination like his father. Being King's son is not so much a burden as a blessing, he says. "For a start, there is name recognition. My name was better known than even the incumbent's when I ran for commissioner."

Another man whose name is known to most Americans is James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to King's murder and is serving his 99-year-sentence in a prison near Nashville. He was denied a pardon two years ago.

Asked for the thousandth time for his memories of the murder, Martin King's voice drops as he tells the story. "We were all in the kitchen watching television. We ran back to my mother's room... she explained to us later that Daddy had gone home to live with God and that we would see him again but he wouldn't be able

to talk to us or hug us and kiss us as he always had done.

"What stuck out in my mind was that after my father was killed, my mother assumed leadership automatically. Daddy was to have led a march on April 7. She assumed the role and led that march. Very few people would have been able to rise to that occasion."

"I remember how we were surrounded by national guardsmen and there were thousands and thousands of people and they wouldn't let the people get to us. I remember just hurting. I remember Bill Cosby coming and spending time with Dexter and me. But really just being in pain... and crying a lot. I even asked the question 'why?'."

"Any time we have had a tragedy - my grandmother's death, my cousin's - we've come together. They have brought us really closer together. It affected us differently to some extent, but each of us, for a period of time, ran from leadership to some degree, ran from responsibility. Because when you think of leadership, you are thinking, can I really live up to the expectations? You're thinking, what if I fail?"

## Grande dame moves on

It is Easter week in Paris and tourists fill the streets, but the man at the reception desk in the stately Hotel Meurice says with deference that they are very quiet at the moment. Sadly, the sort of people who made this famous hotel the place to stay in Paris belong to a bygone age.

Yesterday came the news that the Meurice, overlooking the Tuileries in the rue de Rivoli, has been sold for about £35 million by Grand Metropolitan, who want to concentrate on their two major hotels in Paris - the Inter-Continental in the rue Castiglioni, just round the corner from the Meurice, and the Grand, undergoing a facelift. If the Ministry of Finance agrees, the new owners will be the CIGA group.

Augustine Meurice opened his first establishment on the rue Saint-Honoré at the beginning of the last century specifically to cater for the intrepid British upper classes who, with the fall of Napoleon, were travelling to Europe, the forerunners of today's tourists.

The second, grander Hotel Meurice rose on the rue de Rivoli some 30 years later. Comfort, efficiency and discretion were the cardinal rules that drew the crowned heads of Europe, including Queen Victoria and Edward VII to stay in this building and the

Once the haven of stars and artists, the Meurice Hotel, Paris, has a new owner



Meurice man: Salvador Dali in 1970, holding court in Paris

one that replaced it in 1907. Its fame belonged to the days when society would not have considered "jetting" anywhere. They arrived in elegance and style and expected their way of life to continue wherever they went. Alfonso XIII of Spain, for instance, used to bring his own furniture with him.

One of the features of the hotel was its magnificent roof garden, where many came to see and be seen and gaze out at one of the best views of Paris. It represented a way of life that was shattered by the Second World War, when the

Germans requisitioned the hotel and turned it into their military command headquarters for the Paris region. History reveals that the entrance to the hotel cellars was never discovered by the Germans, although no mention is made of exactly what was below their feet.

The regional commander, General Dietrich von Sholtitz, resided in room 213. It was here that he was captured alive, after a short but bloody battle during the liberation of Paris in 1944, and signed his surrender in the grand salon on the first floor.

No serious structural damage was done to the enormous edifice, but extensive repairs were needed when it was allowed to become a hotel again in 1946. It had certainly deteriorated under German occupation and modern plumbing facilities replaced those that had remained the same since the 1907 - which says something for a European idea of comfort.

Famous guests now included film stars and artists, among them Salvador Dali, who always held court in Paris at the Meurice. It was he who in the early 1970s inaugurated a new Copper Bar and Copper Grill restaurant - to replace the billiard room in the basement - all decked out with heavy mock Chippendale furniture.

The old spacious luxury was disappearing and since then the patchy attempts at "modernization" have only detracted from the magnificence of the old style with the introduction of garish colours on walls and furnishings.

But the hotel is still proud of its individual character and has no wish to attract the tour parties that would make it more viable. "We are faithful to our visitors," a senior manager said, "and have their reputation to consider."

Susan MacDonald

### CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1529

ACROSS

- 1 Factory-made buildings (6)
- 2 Zambian capital (6)
- 3 Beauvais department (4)
- 4 Skilled shot (3)
- 5 Tennis court runner (7)
- 6 Persecute (5)
- 7 Dutch packet station (4,2,7)
- 8 Witch company (5)
- 9 Corpulence (7)
- 10 British Legion inspirer (4,4)
- 11 Sole (4)
- 12 Involuntary shudder (6)
- 13 Harmfully associated (6)

DOWN

- 1 Lord High Everything Else (7)
- 2 Artist's frame (5)
- 3 Dumb blonde (5)
- 4 Learning (4)
- 5 RN Gulf patrol (7)
- 6 Displace (5)
- 7 Ship's base area (5)
- 8 Counterpart (7)
- 9 Free from tears (3,4)
- 10 Storage box (5)
- 11 Rope loop (5)
- 12 Archery red (5)
- 13 About MP's partner (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1528

ACROSS: 1 Biceps 4 Sprint 9 Cabbages 10 Aloft 11 Barn 12 Tip 13 Saddle 14 Examine

DOWN: 1 Bob 2 Cobra 3 Plaintiff 5 PTA 6 Jinx 7 Things 8 Weathercock 11 Bob 13 Pas de deux 15 Unstaked 16 Nye 17 Stocks 20 Bloom 21 Sun 23 Del

### FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

CLASSICS

When Aeneas enters the underworld in the sixth book of Virgil's *Aeneid*, why does he take a golden bough with him? And when he leaves, why does he emerge by the ivory gate of false dreams? Professor David West, in his published lecture *The Bough and the Gate* (Exeter University Publications, £1.50), identifies Plato as the key to both questions. The Greek poet Meleager refers to the "ever-golden branch of divine Plato", and Virgil borrows this to signal Plato's contribution to Aeneas' journey to the underworld, which owes much to the myth of Er in the *Republic* as well as to Homer. And the ivory gate? A poetical equivalent to Plato's warnings that his myths are not to be taken as exactly true. *Martin F. Smith*

ARCHAEOLOGY

Two grape vines from British neolithic sites more than 5,000 years old have been dated directly by the Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit at Oxford. One proved to be modern, although it came from the buried soil underneath the Hazleton North tomb in Gloucestershire. But the other, from Hameldon Hill in Dorset, is the earliest grape found in Britain. Two wheat seeds from the same pit were dated as well, and all three specimens yielded identical ages of between 3460 and 3500 BC. *Norman Hammond*

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# TIMES DIARY

LORD ST JOHN  
OF FAWLEY

Everybody was having a really lovely time at the opening of the National Youth Theatre's new headquarters in the Holloway Road on Wednesday. The star of the show was Prince Edward, clearly still stage struck, who performed the opening ceremony with grace and charm. What would Queen Victoria make of her grandson being a member of the Theatians? I think she would have been very much amused. She was the first sovereign since Charles II to treat actors seriously and by inviting them to Windsor gave the profession respectability.

Holloway Road will not provide our young actors with a theatre as such, but there was previously a music hall on the site and the NYT can boast the largest rehearsal room in the kingdom. All this is due to the munificence of the Sainsbury family who are fast becoming an English version of the Medicis. But the theatre is still short of money and all widow's mites are welcome.

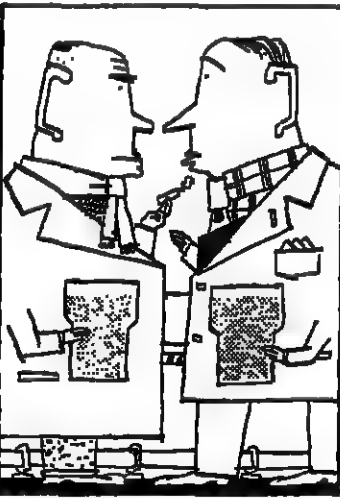
How this week's triumph, including a special sketch performed for their royal patron, would have lifted the heart of the never-to-be-forgotten Michael Croft who founded the theatre and kept it going through its roller-coaster career of ups and downs. One difficulty remains: the young people have great difficulty in getting Equity cards. They are even more difficult to obtain than an American residential green card. Surely Equity should be generous to the profession of the future? At the moment the only way the youngsters can be sure of a card is to do a stint in a Soho strip club.

The day before this celebration I planted a tree on behalf of Westminster City Council in front of Shell Mex House. It was a real tree, a splendid £500 London plane more than 30 ft high, and with any luck it will grow up and shield part of its looming neighbour from public view. I congratulate Westminster Council on their new policy and on having got rid of those unsightly tubs, auxiliary litter bins, with deceased occupants, which were disfiguring some of the finest ceremonial streets in the capital.

But the council should beware. Planting and, even more, moving trees can be an expensive business, as the great Chatham found when he transported a forest to his home, Burton-Pynsent, in Somerset, and went bankrupt. His towering memorial obelisk can still be seen round the unprotected coping of which the young Bagshot would scamper, terrifying his anxious mother. Walter evidently had a head for heights. A contemporary records that when Mrs Bagshot was attempting to show off her clever boy at one of her brother's levees at Hill House, Langport, he evaded her efforts by "swarming up a great tree and remained there glaring down on the assembly from the topmost bough in a surprising manner and to the detriment of his Sabbath raiment."

An even greater Sabbath is now approaching and yesterday Lord Alreide mounted his favourite hobby horse and charged off in search of a fixed Easter. Curiously enough a fixed Easter has been on the statute book since 1928 but it needs an order in council to bring it into operation. The proposed date for the immovable Easter day is the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. More clement weather is the reason most often advanced for the change but I am suspicious of the secularists. The late Richard Crossman undermined Whitman with his fixed secular bank holiday: when is Mrs Thatcher going to restore it? A fixed Easter is not the same as a common Easter but agreement among the churches seems unlikely. The World Council of Churches has 239 members. Not much chance of a consensus there, let alone the problem of the Orthodox.

BARRY FANTONI



'Of course President's a traditionalist - he believes in pulling the party apart from the middle'

At this time of the year I often reflect how full of Marys the gospels are. The great Lady apart, there are three who somehow have contrived to become elided or conflated. David Knowles, the distinguished Downside and Peterhouse scholar, once unravelled them all. There was the "sinner" of St Luke's gospel, nameless in the original: the second was Mary of Magdala, liberated from seven devils, who stood at the foot of the cross, rushed into the tomb and was the first to be greeted by the risen Lord: the third was the sister of Martha and Lazarus, a quiet domestic type, who had her moment of glory when she anointed the Lord's feet before his passion.

How did they become compressed into a single person? Two Marys and one anonymous being who acquired the name is one reason: another is that there were two Simons, both hosts at the meals. Before the days of concordances, confusion was understandable although the character of the elided lady was always incredible, one minute a prostitute, the next diabolically possessed; at one point a mystic and at another a housewife. Perhaps the only important point is that the Lord treated them all with such discriminating love and courtesy, distinguishing so unerringly their different gifts and needs.

A happy and blessed Easter to all who read this column, including Lord Dacre, whom I am sorry to have offended. I hope that this benediction will not make matters worse.

Last week the world was witness to horrifying pictures in newspapers and on television of the effects of Iraqi chemical weapon attacks on the Kurdish town of Halabja in northern Iraq. Although the precise number of Kurdish victims is not known, Western correspondents taken to the town soon after the attacks reported seeing hundreds of bodies of women, children and elderly people in the now nearly empty streets.

Kurdish and Iranian officials claim that the Iraqi chemical attacks left as many as 5,000 dead and many thousands injured. Many of the victims bore signs of exposure to mustard gas, while others seemed to have been affected by a very quick-acting chemical such as cyanide or the nerve agent Sarin.

The Iraqi ambassador to London has denied that his country used chemical weapons at Halabja and has claimed that the attacks were really the work of Iranian military forces. But Iraq has always officially denied having used chemical weapons in the Gulf War, despite firm evidence that it has repeatedly done so since at least 1984.

In all likelihood, these latest Iraqi attacks were designed to punish the Kurds for siding with

Iran in the war, to deter further Kurdish military collaboration with Iran, and to force the international community to bring about an end to hostilities in the Gulf and a return to the status quo ante.

Unless the international community acts quickly, the use of chemical weapons is likely to increase still further. In the aftermath of the attacks on Halabja, the head of the Iranian War Information Ministry warned that Tehran might be forced to use chemical weapons in retaliation if the United Nations failed to take action against Iraq.

Pressure may already be building on the mullets to approve a chemical retaliatory policy, not least because the sons of two senior Iranian leaders, the Speaker of the Parliament and the Prosecutor-General, were among the victims of recent gas attacks while fighting in north-

ern Iraq. For its part, Iraq is now threatening to carry its chemical attacks one step further by launching strikes against major Iranian cities.

Thus far, the international reaction to Iraq's chemical warfare activities has been mixed. United Nations investigative teams sent to the Gulf in 1984, 1986 and 1987 confirmed the use of mustard gas, and possibly of phosgene and the nerve agent Tabun. But it was not until 1986 that the UN officially identified Iraq as the guilty party.

Various countries have also banned the sale to both Iraq and Iran of key chemicals that can be used to produce chemical warfare agents. But many such chemicals have legitimate commercial uses, and are therefore easily obtained on the international market.

While chemical export controls have been made it more difficult and more costly

for Iraq, as well as Iran, to acquire chemical weapons, they have not prevented either from continuing to develop its chemical warfare capabilities.

Many states believe that an Iranian victory in the war would stimulate Islamic fundamentalism in the oil producing countries of the Gulf, with disastrous consequences for the entire region. As a result, even though Iraq started the war, intensified the war of the cities, and introduced chemical weapons into the conflict, major weapons deliveries to Baghdad have continued in recent years. The Soviet bloc, France, China and Egypt have been among Iraq's most important suppliers.

This support has undoubtedly made an important contribution to the overall Iraqi war effort. Although Iran has been able to procure comparatively fewer arms than Iraq, it has been able to prolong the war because of the

military support provided by countries such as North Korea and China.

The time has come, however, for the international community to recognize the wider implications of Iraq's chemical warfare activities. Baghdad has flagrantly and repeatedly violated the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which bans the use of chemical (as well as biological) weapons. As a result, the long-standing taboo against chemical warfare is in danger of breaking down.

We might soon see chemical weapons being transferred more freely between states, and perhaps even to terrorist groups. Non-nuclear weapons states, in particular, may move to develop, and possibly even use, this "poor man's" weapon of mass destruction. And as chemical weapons proliferate, the possibility of a resurgence of interest in biological weapons becomes more likely as well.

Already, rumours have been circulating that Iraq is seeking to develop a biological weapons capability of its own.

If these highly destabilizing developments are to be forestalled, the international community must take three urgent steps. First, states that are supplying arms to Iraq must make it clear that any further use of chemical weapons will result in an immediate arms embargo. Second, priority must be given to intensified efforts to bring the Gulf War to a halt including, if necessary, an arms embargo against Iran.

Finally, it is high time that the global ban on chemical weapons currently under discussion at the disarmament conference in Geneva be placed at the top of the East-West arms control agenda. Only through such concerted efforts will it be possible to ensure that last week's horrendous events in Halabja will not be repeated.

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The author, an SSRC-MacArthur Foundation fellow in international peace and security studies, is currently a visiting research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies.

Elisa Harris urges concerted world pressure on Iraq and Iran

## Halt this chemical murder

Andrei Navrozov

## The Kremlin's Christian pawns

The Reagan-Gorbachev summit will take place sooner and last longer than had been expected, suggesting that the President intends to spend a few days looking around Moscow, a city he has never seen. The timing is significant because the visit coincides with the celebrations of the millennium: on the Sunday after the President's departure, the bells of Yelokhovskiy Cathedral will ring in 1,000 years of Orthodox Christianity in Russia.

By the end of May, the eyes of the world will be on Moscow, the "Third Rome" of the Christian tradition, decked out in the splendour of universal peace and eternal love. What better backdrop for talks on disarmament? The use of Christianity by the Soviet leadership as a propaganda spectacle may seem strange to some. It has become fashionable to see religious belief as a threat to the Soviet Union, not a support of it. On this Good Friday of 1988 it is particularly appropriate that the history of the church under Soviet rule should be clearly known.

In 1943, Stalin summoned the head of the Orthodox Church, which had been consistently persecuted and all but exterminated during the previous decades, to the Kremlin. Stalin was a master of *perestroika*, a term which he, long before Gorbachev, had introduced into the vocabulary of Soviet propaganda. He had been educated as a priest in his youth. But when Metropolitan Sergiy was delivered to the Kremlin on the night of September 3, even Stalin's closest associates could not have guessed that the seminary-trained statesman had far-reaching plans for the "restructuring" of religion.

The indescribable terror and agony which October 1917 had brought into the lives of Christian believers was not on Stalin's mind as he asked Sergiy why the church was "short of cadres" ("Because," replied the future Patriarch of Moscow and All the Russias, "we train a man for priesthood, and he becomes a generalissimo?").

What Stalin envisaged was a

new union of church and state suited to his strategic goal of a nationalist totalitarian empire. In fact, as early as 1932, a Soviet apologist in the West claimed that, under Stalin, Russia was "gradually and ever more thoroughly ridding itself of the buzzing fly of Marxism" and prophesied a "Russian Caesar" of the future.

But it was not until the war that "revolutionary" Marxism, with its European intellectual heritage, gave way to "Great Russian" chauvinist nationalism in earnest, requiring the church to play a part in Stalin's ideological *perestroika*.

Soviet and Western historians alike have tended to interpret the change as an attempt on Stalin's part to boost patriotism in the war against Hitler. Had the reconciliation with the church taken place in 1941, when the Soviet army was suffering its worst defeats, such an explanation would have been more plausible. That it occurred on September 3, 1943 — some six months after the tide had turned at Stalingrad and on the very day that the Allies signed an armistice with Italy — indicates that Stalin's plans for the church were more far-reaching.

In 1943-1953, the number of functioning churches in Russia rose from a high estimate of 1,000 to some 25,000, nearly half of the pre-1917 total. On the occasion of Stalin's 70th birthday, on December 21, 1949, they re-sounded with a Te Deum, as the "paternally solicitous guardian" was showered with apostolic praise for his *deyania* (apostolic deeds). With the map of Europe recently redrafted to his satisfaction, the imperial dream was at last a totalitarian reality, complete with an ancient church then celebrating 500 years of its ecclesiastical independence.

Apart from its domestic policy role as a spokesman for Soviet "Great Russian" nationalism, by the late 1940s the church was presentable enough to function as a propaganda mouthpiece abroad: in April 1949, for instance, it was instrumental in organizing the first congress of



the World Peace Council in Paris, followed by the first international conference of the Friends of Peace in Moscow later that year.

It was this "ecumenical" function that Stalin's successors, after his death in 1953, encouraged the church to exercise: the World Conference on the Reduction of International Tension (Stockholm, 1954), the World Peace Assembly (Helsinki, 1955), the World Congress on Disarmament and International Co-operation (Stockholm, 1958), the World Congress on Disarmament and Peace

(Moscow, 1962), and the World Congress for Peace, National Independence, and Disarmament (Moscow, 1965) are some of the events of the post-Stalin years in which the church played a major part, first in conjunction with the World Peace Council and later under the auspices, among others, of the Christian Peace Conference (which it helped to found in 1958), and the World Council of Churches (which it joined in 1961).

While the new men at the top took swift action to neutralize the church as the agent of a domestic policy they associated

with their predecessor (for instance, in CPSU central committee decrees of July 7 and November 10, 1954), the practical task of reducing the church to its "ecumenical" component fell to Khrushchev personally. By 1965, fewer than 8,000 churches remained open. Nevertheless, when Aleksiy, Patriarch Sergiy's successor since 1944, died in 1970, he had not one but four Orders of the Red Banner of Labour to his name "for patriotic activity in defence of peace".

The present Patriarch, Pimen, has earned two such decorations since 1971, and the activities of

the Russian church under Gorbachev and his predecessors have justified the honour. Since 1982, international conferences in Moscow have addressed such timely issues as "The Defence of the Holy Gift of Life from Nuclear Holocaust" (May 1982), "Economic and Moral Ramifications of Nuclear Freeze" (March 1983), "Cosmos Without Weapons" (April 1984) and "New Dangers to the Holy Gift of Life" (February 1985), drawing participants from as many as 90 countries.

In the words of the author of *Sovremennoe russkoe pravoslaviye* (Russian Orthodoxy Today, Leningrad 1987), published to mark the millennium, "peace activism, expressing the fundamental social interests of Socialist citizens in a religious form, is new to the Russian Orthodox Church and characteristic of the current phase in its evolution".

Where such "evolution" will take the church is open to conjecture. One thing is certain, however: come June, she will once again play the part written for her by Stalin.

Western observers of the Soviet scene have often voiced their belief that the church, and religion generally, may have an ameliorating, "liberalizing" effect on the regime. Yet no church can survive as a spiritual entity in a totalitarian state, and those who suggest otherwise are playing into the hands of Gorbachev's propagandists.

Conjuring up Dostoevsky's Great Inquisitor with his prophecy of universal slavery "in Christ's name", the Yugoslav writer Mihaljo Mihajlov has cautioned us that totalitarianism may one day accept religion. What it can never accept is individual freedom, without which religion is only an instrument of oppression at home and of deception abroad. That is one lesson of the millennium which President Reagan is unlikely to learn in June.

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The author is a Russian-born writer and journalist living in Britain.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

## No jettisoning Jesse

So the "Stop Jesse Jackson" campaign has begun. I hope it fails. His nomination as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate would galvanize American politics. It would shake the white establishment out of its complacent stupor and would boost the confidence and morale of black people in America and around the world.

That Jackson has to be taken seriously is at last being acknowledged. It is not just that he has routed all the opposition within his own party on their own battlegrounds, including the redoubtable and much-fancied Michael Dukakis. He has also collected the largest number of delegates. That, presumably, counts for something, or why bother with the whole expensive paraphernalia of the primaries?

If Jesse Jackson ends up with a majority, or even the largest number of delegates, at the Atlanta convention in July, he will have to be endorsed as the party's choice for president. On that there can be no equivocation. It is presumptuous and preposterous to argue, as some in the Democratic Party hierarchy are now doing, that whatever happens, however many primaries and caucuses he wins, no matter how many delegates are pledged to him, Jesse Jackson cannot be anointed as the nominee because he cannot win the November election.

Perhaps he can't. But that is not the point. The point will be that Democratic Party members will have decided by the method accepted by all who their candidate shall be. It is not then for Washington-based so-called elders to arrogate to themselves

the right to repudiate the voice of the "people" on the basis of evidence provided by polls. Apart from being undemocratic it's absurd. And anyway, who are these people who set themselves up as the arbiters of who is and who is not electable?

For the Democratic Party even to flirt with such a possibility is to betray all that is best in its own past. Even to nudge it forward as a suggestion that can be entertained and discussed is both cowardly and unprincipled. This, remember, is the liberal party, the one that boasts of its campaign for equality, that claims to fight discrimination and promote civil rights. It cannot enjoin all these desirable values on others if, when it really counts, it eschews them itself.

To draft Mario Cuomo or some other white liberal who has disavowed the hustings to be the party's saviour, as some now advocate, would be a monumental and cynical betrayal of all principle, of democratic values and of black people. It would also be extraordinarily stupid, and probably electorally counter-productive. It is difficult, in such circumstances, to envisage many blacks, or decent whites, voting Democrat now or in the near future.

The consequences for race relations would be horrendous. The deposing and humiliation of Jesse Jackson would be the clearest possible signal to blacks everywhere that white Americans, including the liberals, cannot be trusted. When it comes to questions of power they can be as dismissive and disregarding of blacks as Botha at his worst. What a provocative message that

would be. And who could speculate as to its consequences?

In any case, who says a black radical preacher is unelectable? The Americans have elected worse, several times. They have even resorted to a B-movie actor.

The British haven't always been much better. It was said, in the US, that it was impossible for a Roman Catholic to get to the White House until Kennedy breezed in, and with style. A Pope could not be Pope or a woman the leader of the British Conservative Party. The latter was a ridiculous impossibility. The lady in the 1922 Committee and the old boys at the Carlton Club wouldn't wear it. And even if they did, the electorate wouldn't buy it. The Labour Party agreed, with undisguised glee. And look what happened.

It may well be that Jackson would have to soften his image, distance himself a little from the likes of Castro and Arafat, and moderate his anti-American and anti-capitalist tone. All this may be the price he would have to pay for electoral success.

But I wonder. While it seems inconceivable that a majority of Americans, black and white, share these views it does seem possible that they are prepared to tolerate them in a candidate who has other gifts and virtues. Perhaps they will accept them in a man who shows that he cares for the underdog, who has strong convictions and is prepared to fight for them. Maybe the electorate prefers politicians with passion than those jostling for place. Perhaps that's why Mrs Thatcher is so successful. Maybe Neil Kinnock ought to take note.

## SCIENCE REPORT

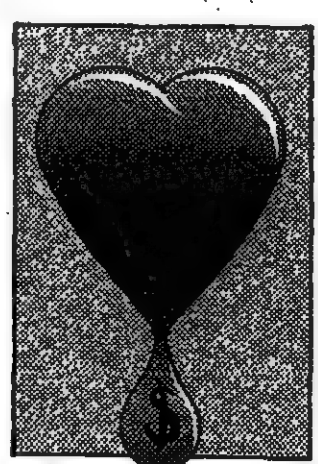
## Blood money

The announcement of successful results from two clinical studies of a drug to treat heart attacks has been announced by the American company Genetech, pushing it even further into the big leagues of the pharmaceutical industry.

Founded in 1976, Genetech is now America's leading biotechnology company. It developed the first two products of biotechnology to reach the market, human insulin and human growth hormone. But its blood clot-dissolving drug (TPA) proves that biotechnology can be immensely profitable: sales topped \$58 million only six weeks after its approval for sale last November.

TPA, a protein that occurs naturally in the body, prevents uncontrolled clotting. Most heart attacks are caused by blood clots forming on fatty deposits in a coronary artery, cutting off the blood supply to the heart and starving the heart muscle of oxygen and nutrients. The clots consist of fibrin, a netlike substance which traps blood cells.

TPA acts by stimulating plasmin, a naturally occurring enzyme which breaks up the fibrin net, dissolving the clots. Genetech produces TPA by recombinant DNA technology, or gene-splicing. The human TPA gene, the blueprint for the manufacture of TPA, is inserted into mammalian cells grown in culture. By carefully manipulating the growth con-



Paul Bryant

ditions of the cultures, the cells can be coaxed into secreting quantities of TPA large enough to be used for medical purposes.

The new drug was controversial and US government approval for sale was obtained only after an arduous review. To prove its effectiveness and obtain a licence for sale, Genetech amassed data on the ability of the drug to break down clots. But the US Food and Drug Administration's request because the company had no evidence that breaking down blood clots prolonged the life of the patient. After much public debate over the propriety of keeping a potentially life-saving drug off the market, TPA was approved five months ago.

Now, clinical proof of TPA's

effectiveness in reducing the mortality rate of heart attack patients and a demonstration of success against blood clots have been announced. The first study, conducted by the European Co-operative Study Group, compared the results of TPA versus a placebo in 700 heart attack patients. TPA reduced deaths by one half after a two-week period.

The second study contrasted TPA's ability to break down blood clots in the lung to that of urokinase, the conventional therapy for pulmonary embolism. After two hours, TPA was nearly twice as effective as urokinase. TPA is not currently approved for the treatment of blood clots in the lung, but Genetech is expected to apply for US approval for this use later in the year.

Despite TPA's high price (\$2,000 per dose), a recent survey indicates that over half of all US cardiologists would use it over streptokinase, the other available clot-dissolving drug, which costs only \$200 a dose. Their preference for TPA may be swayed by the results of a study expected later this year comparing the effectiveness of TPA with that of an enhanced version of streptokinase named Ekenase being developed by Beecham Group.

But analysts still predict that Genetech will reap revenues of \$350 million for sales of TPA this year.

CAROL EZZELL

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## THE GREAT UNCOMFORTER

The Christian symbol of the cross, so extraordinary an emblem of a religion of love, is so familiar as to be almost invisible. When the crucifix is worn it is rarely a pious object, more often a pretty decoration. Something shockingly cruel is tame and neutral. Today is universally known as Good Friday. And hardly anyone is curious enough to ask why. Familiarity breeds indifference.

As now, so in the eighteenth century Church of England, as it settled comfortably into relaxed security after the religious quarrels and excitement of the previous era. The edge of the Gospel story was being blunted, and its brutal images and strong demands were being diluted into polite and acceptable social conventions. The Church was ripe for an upset, and it duly received an appropriate jolt — John Wesley.

The mission of the founder of Methodism was to present the truths of Christianity in fresh ways to those who had grown indifferent. He challenged them to conversion and commitment. He made them uncomfortable. He insisted, above all, that "Christian perfection" was an ideal to which all should aspire, and which should neither be the exclusive concern of the over-pious nor the professional right of the cleric.

His conversion, 250 years ago, is being commemorated this year throughout the Methodist Church worldwide. He still has a lesson for the present day — that to make religion less demanding is not necessarily to make it more attractive.

Parallels between the religious climate of 1738 and 1988 must always be made with care. But at both times many would regard the Church of England as a church without fire. Christianity has become part of the cultural wallpaper, no longer wanting to stand out.

The churches have responded to the mood of the age by emphasizing where they can come to terms with it, and diminishing what distinguishes them from it. The rise in the incidence of cults in the last two decades can be attributed in no small part to the lifelessness in the older forms of religious belief and practice, and their consequent failure to hold the

enthusiasm and idealism of youth.

Wesley was a loyal Anglican, no self-appointed saviour of mankind, nor is or was Methodism ever a cult in the modern sense; but the cause of his mission and the explanation of its success both lay less in what he was doing right than in what the Church was doing wrong. That is just as true of the rise of modern cults.

Modern Methodists would be wise to admit that they are now in the Church of England's boat themselves, and that their own sharp edge has also been blunted by two centuries of institutional religion. A modern Wesley would be as likely to lead a revival movement outside Methodism as within it. The vivid hymns of his brother Charles Wesley, so novel and stirring at the time, are now the old favourites, sung more for nostalgia than for fervour.

The Church of England itself is beginning to reclaim Wesley as one of its own at last. That may be an ecumenical advance. But it is also a sign that modern Wesleyism has lost its spikes and is now safe to embrace.

What distinguished early Methodism was its intense appeal to the working class. The immediate measure of the Church of England's failure to recognize its importance was its inability to welcome these new converts into its own fellowship. It was the established Church's last great chance to create for itself a working-class base, and it was missed.

Methodism's membership has now become very similar to that of Anglicanism. Whatever it was that explained Wesley's appeal to the unchurched folk of England, it seems gradually to have faded.

Wesley saw that Christianity has hard truths to tell, and should not be shy of them. At the commemoration of Jesus Christ's death on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter Day, the Church must resist the temptation to blur the reality of those events by turning them into sentimental metaphors, or merely extracting from them some point of comparison in order to give them spurious relevance to everyday life. On their own terms, they are relevant enough already.

## SCHOOLS OF HOPE

Behind yesterday's row about Amnesty and the IRA, behind the police search for the vicious funeral killers, behind the violence and the high-volume arguments which disfigure the public life of Northern Ireland, some small progress towards a better life for the province quietly goes on. This week, for example, the Government issued a consultation paper on school reform. It included a benign nudge in favour of integrated schooling — a move as welcome as so much Irish news is not.

For many decades, the Protestant and Roman Catholic communities in Northern Ireland have educated almost all of their children in parallel but separately maintained systems. During the troubles of the last two decades, small groups of (mostly middle-class) parents have voiced the desire to send their children to integrated schools.

By degrees, these groups became a fledgling movement and in due course founded an integrated secondary school on the outskirts of Belfast. Other local initiatives took place — often very quietly. Those involved have no incentive to draw attention to themselves and every reason not to do so. In addition to the tiny number that were founded as integrated schools, others have struggled to alter themselves with the permission, sometimes reluctant or covert, of the authorities.

The Government now proposes an additional form of status, to be called unattractively "grant-maintained integrated status". Demand for integrated schooling cannot be met entirely by the creation of new schools, it says, because of the need for a school to attract enough pupils and teach a balanced curriculum before it can receive state funds.

The struggling fund-raisers for the handful of integrated schools which started from scratch would readily testify to problems of this trap. Just at the moment that a school gets over its worst financial problems, it becomes eligible for the very government money which was kept out of reach when it needed it most.

The Government has been slow to respond to the integration movement, anxious about preserving standards in new institutions and conscious of the opposition of the Roman Catholic hierarchy — which has lately been moderated. It has rather laid emphasis on the relative

stability of school institutions in a turbulent society — also on the virtual identity of the syllabuses in the two systems.

But, it may be asked, is the new move compatible with the Government's desire in the rest of the country to allow parental demand to create and maintain separate denominational schools? The answer is that it looks extremely unlikely that many — if any — parents will be thwarted in their wishes for denominational education.

This is not because the Government is incapable of inconsistency between Northern Ireland and the rest of the country. There are numerous examples of that. It owes more to political reality. The Roman Catholic schools are the one major social institution which the Church owns, controls and populates in Northern Ireland. The Government has always been, and clearly remains, very unwilling to mount any frontal challenge to that position.

The change proposed is in fact perfectly consistent with the philosophy of extending the scope of parental choice. In Northern Ireland, it happens that the unsatisfied demand is for further integration; on the mainland, it happens to take the form of greater separatism.

The desire for integrated schooling is normally explained as a way of dissolving barriers which create communal division. Although some hope can be placed in this argument, it should not be exaggerated. Terrorism has stopped the society being one in which inter-communal fear and suspicion can be reduced on a wide scale by integrating children before prejudices have time to harden. While confessional division certainly still remains, it has been compounded and altered by two decades of familiarity with paramilitary violence.

The most important division in Northern Ireland is between those who yearn for the peaceful assurance of democratic politics and those who practise or endorse violence as a political method. Teachers and schools should certainly build bridges between religions, but they face a massively important task in education for citizenship and in teaching the moral and intellectual perception to see through those who market and package murder to make it appealing to young minds.

## RU A1 OK

The Government's critics have been surprisingly quiet this week about the news that Mr Paul Channon and his colleagues have turned their attention from the family silver to their scrap metal pile. The Transport Secretary, after lengthy scrutiny and Cabinet approval, is preparing to dispose of old car number plates. This is surely something of which Labour should disapprove, it being both entrepreneurial and an addition to the fun of life.

Business in used car number plates is booming. In the last eight years the annual total of re-registrations at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea has doubled to nearly 70,000, as motorists have looked for new ways to solve their identity crises.

As the DVLC charges £80 for the clerical work involved and nuisance value, the Treasury already benefits substantially from the commerce. But it wants still more. The proposal is that it should become much more directly interested by not only registering the transfers but selling the new numbers too.

A number of private companies already profit handsomely from this trade. Some drivers will pay several hundred pounds for their initials or company logo, while more famous acronyms and combinations are worth thousands on the open market. Many fetch £10,000 or more while VIP 1 has been

priced at £100,000. The right number can cost much more than the car.

Some numbers, however, have never been issued. Those that spell out obscenities or offensive messages are likely to remain banned from use. But others have never been issued because, says the DVLC, the demand for them would be overwhelming, leading to competition which might be against the public interest. All figures under 20 have been held back every year, on the equally unconvincing argument that as everyone would want one, it is better to let nobody have one.

Some desirable items have slipped through. The comedian, Mr Jimmy Tarbuck, reportedly drives around in a car with the number plate COM IC and the conjurer Mr Paul Daniels with MAG IC. But others like ELV IS, DI ANA and CHR IS remain stored on the DVLC computer. The gleam in Mr Channon's eye foretells their impending sale at market prices.

It is not a very edifying public trade, it will be said. Personalized number plates suggest a vulgar and ostentatious form of vanity — particularly when they cost more than the cars. But it is harmless, perfectly legal, and clearly brings pleasure to those who so choose to indulge themselves. Those who want to stop the Government need some A1 arguments, OK?

## Realities of life on the Rock

From the Chief Minister of Gibraltar

Sir, I fail to see why the position of my people as regards relations with Spain should cast any given size of shadow over Anglo-Spanish relations (leading article, March 28). We wish to live in peace and harmony with our neighbours but not to have their flag fly over our Rock. We cannot understand why you or anyone else should expect to have the right to consider it "unreasonable" that we should not make "concessions" to be allowed to live in peace.

Her Majesty has no more loyal subjects than the people of Gibraltar and it is natural that we should expect, with our strong belief in the values of British society and the sense of fair play of the British people that we will not be coerced or intimidated to serve the perceived national interests of others at the expense of ours.

After 16 years in public life I doubt whether there are political realities that I am not aware of and you can teach me. However I certainly mean everything I say and have no intention of betraying the sacred trust that I have to place the interests of my people first and ensure that I am reflecting accurately their wishes.

I am sure, if you give the matter further thought, you will come to realise that the qualities of not sacrificing principle to opportunism and not giving in to "political realities", for example within the EEC when it comes to defending British interests, are those your newspaper has often admired in Mrs Thatcher. They are no less admirable in any other political leader.

Yours faithfully,  
J. BASSANO,  
6 Convent Place,  
Gibraltar.  
March 30.

From Mr J. L. Pitaluga

Sir, I write as leader of the Independent Democratic Party (internally, not externally, independent) which, launched only in mid-January, nevertheless managed to gain over 12 per cent of votes cast in last week's election. May I comment briefly on your editorial of March 28:

1. Madrid's acquiescence to the deregulation of airlines in Europe should not have been conditional on Spanish joint use of Gibraltar's facilities. Gibraltar was fully entitled, under Community law, to inclusion in the deregulation package. We just happened to be, in the face of the Spanish veto in June last year, the sacrifice required for the package to proceed.

2. More freedom for cross-border traffic and the resumption of the ferry to Algeciras were the subject of a separate agreement which had nothing to do with the airport and which were obligations which Spain had accepted under the Lisbon Agreement of 1980 and the Brussels Agreement of 1984, not to mention the Community's rules on freedom of movement.

3. Throughout the election campaign my party has insisted that Gibraltar should be represented at future Anglo-Spanish talks as part of the British delegation; 42 per cent of voters disagree with Mr Basso on this.

4. Why is it unreasonable for Gibraltarians to oppose concessions to Madrid? Any more unreasonable than, say, the Falkland Islanders, with the support of London, to oppose concessions to Buenos Aires?

5. Gibraltar no longer depends on Britain for development aid, but I agree that Mr Basso has to recognise economic realities and that Gibraltar should not be subjected to his outdated, left-wing economic theories.

Yours faithfully,

J. L. PITALUGA,  
Leader,  
Independent Democratic Party,  
22 Prince Edward's Road,  
Gibraltar.  
March 29.

## Posts and outposts

From Ms Elizabeth Asfaw

Sir, I have followed the correspondence regarding late deliveries by the Post Office and I thought you would be interested to learn that *The Times* gets to this box number in two days.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH ASFAW,  
PO Box 3005,  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia.

## No kidding?

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, With reference to Mr Chris Bonington's forthcoming expedition to the Himalayas to search for the "abominable snowman", or yeti (report and photograph, March 31), he will no doubt be aware of an interview I conducted 29 years ago tomorrow, as presenter of the Associated Rediffusion (as it was then) television programme, *This Week*, with a Professor Duncan Grant-Hetherington, of the University of Camelford.

The professor and a colleague had recently returned from the Himalayas, where they claimed to have come upon a yeti unaware. They produced as evidence a rather blurred photograph and what the professor called a cast of its foot and a piece of its fur.

Yours etc,  
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,  
Ashdown, Avebury,  
Wiltshire.  
March 31.

## Freedom of speech on the campus

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool

Sir, In his article, "This poisoned-ivy league" (March 28), Bernard Levin has failed to comprehend the responsibilities placed on universities under the Education (No. 2) Act 1986 and, consequently, has made a totally unwarranted and unworthy attack on this university.

Under the Act, university premises are given unique status in that, so far as is reasonably practicable, freedom of speech must be secured upon them. A very wide range of people besides students (including all employees and many "associated" with the university) may enjoy this freedom, both for themselves and for those whom they bring on to university premises. As a result, the preparation of an effective code under the Act required great thoroughness.

Liverpool University is and always has been determined to preserve freedom of speech in spirit and in law and has responded very positively to the challenge of this legislation. It was considered by a working party which involved two professors, three student representatives, a Queen's counsel and a practising solicitor. The students played a full and effective part in the drafting of the code and in its final form it was agreed by all without dissent. It was thereafter adopted by the university and the Guild of Undergraduates.

The working party was obviously concerned that the new special status given to university premises should not be open to abuse by an outside group having only a technical and extremely tenuous link with the university, but using that link to place obligations on the university. Hence the specific power (one of 10) that the university might require payment in advance of hire charges and other possible contingencies is reasonable; indeed, it is potentially very important in seeking to prevent abuse.

During the working party's deliberations it was clearly understood that if this power were used in the way suggested by Bernard Levin, such use would amount to a breach of the code.

It is worth mentioning that the code creates clear offences so that those actually responsible for impeding freedom of speech can be subject to disciplinary action. That is because Bernard Levin's concern at the damage created by reckless extremists is well founded. He must be clear, however, that universities should have adequate powers to deal with the subtle threats they pose.

Yours sincerely,  
GRAEME J. DAVIES,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Liverpool,  
Senate House,  
Abercromby Square,  
PO Box 147, Liverpool.  
March 29.

## Family law

From Mr Peter Riches

Sir, It was good to see in your report (March 15) that so many MPs from both sides of the House are becoming very impatient at the lack of progress on establishing family courts.

The implementation of new family law, new child-care law and a family court system is an exceedingly complex legal and administrative task. Implementation will need to be phased. But the changes in content of the law and the necessary changes in the court systems must be planned together so that they are as coherent and straightforward as possible. None of the three can be made to work properly alone.

The Solicitor General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, has the admirable intention of getting "child courts and family law right". However, the Government must start somewhere. There never will be a perfect system and waiting for exactly the right law and right court structure is a recipe for continuing misery for many children and families.

Nor is there an argument against such reforms on cost grounds. There is no evidence yet produced which suggests that family courts will cost more, certainly in the long run; indeed the savings to the NHS, local authorities, central government and the taxpayer could be substantial if the system were set up properly.

The damage to families of the present courts is widely experienced and well documented. When will families become a priority? Yours faithfully,  
PETER RICHES (Coordinator),  
Family Courts Campaign,  
c/o 8 Wakley Road, EC1.  
March 16.

## Too much on top

From Mr C. F. Wilson

Sir, Since you report (March 26) that many balding men may be able to have their hair restored, could not the trichologists turn their attention to those other sufferers like myself whose hair grows too abundantly, even in their seventies?

Not only is this condition costly in time, money and temper, but we unfortunately always appear unkempt. How I yearn for a tidy head of hair.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES F. WILSON,  
14 Royal Chase,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.  
March 28.

## Guillotine fears for libraries

From the Chief Executive of the Library Association

Sir, The Local Government Finance Bill, whose principal purpose is to introduce the "community charge" in England, has now completed its committee stage in the House of Commons. The Bill, being a controversial one, is predictably now subject to a guillotine motion.

Despite this, the Government has recently announced that it proposes to introduce a whole new part into the Bill by means of amendments. The new part would be an enabling provision, allowing Government, by statutory instrument, to amend current statutory provisions on the powers and duties of local authorities to levy charges for some of their services.

It was in anticipation of the passage of this enabling legislation that the Minister for the Arts published last month (report, February 24) a Green Paper setting out how he provisionally thinks the powers ought to be exercised in relation to public libraries.

The passage of enabling legislation allowing statutes to be amended by statutory instrument should always be a cause for concern. Concern should surely progress to outright opposition when the legislation comes forward not only unhealed in the second-reading debate, but at an advanced stage in the guillotined proceedings on the Bill.

In these circumstances the provisions cannot possibly receive the careful consideration which the normal procedures of Parliament require.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,  
Chief Executive,  
The Library Association,  
7 Ridgmount Street, WC1.  
March 24.

## ON THIS DAY

APRIL 1 1918

George V visited his troops during the last great German offensive. A modest man, he was clearly moved by the tremendous response to his call, "Are we downhearted?"

## KING AT THE FRONT.

VISIT TO THE BATTLE TROOPS.

The King... sent a letter to the C-in-C, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, expressing admiration for "the indomitable courage and unflinching tenacity" displayed by all those resisting the German advance...

His Majesty returned on Saturday night, after travelling over 300 miles by motor-car among the troops, mingling freely and informally with them, and assuring them of his pride and confidence in them. Everywhere the little Royal Standard flying on his car was recognized by the soldiers, and over and over again the car was stopped while the King alighted to shake hands and chat with the men as they surged cheering around him. There were parties of infantry going to or from the lines, artillery on the move, machine-guns, snipers, cavalrymen — men of every branch of the Service — all equally enthusiastic and full of good spirits. The wounded in the hospitals and advanced clearing stations and in the ambulance trains were wonderfully cheerful. Confidence ruled everywhere.

The feeling of the Armies, as it was expressed by officers and men alike, was "We're all right out here. How about the people at home? Send us more men!"

INCIDENTS BY THE WAY.

— Motoring along a road, a halt was abreast of a Labour Battalion which was resting after a six-mile march. The King moved down the companies, talking freely and giving the men the latest news from the battle front. They asked him many questions with a frank familiarity which greatly pleased him, and as he moved off, gave throat to a tremendous whooping.

Later in the afternoon, on his return journey, the King again came upon more resting troops. A mass of men, spying his car, made a rush and surrounded it. The King descended, and laughing asked, "Who are you?" We are the —, came the reply. "Oh, we all know the —," replied the King, thereby calling down a thunderous roar. But when, in departing, his Majesty cried out, "Are we downhearted?" such an enthusiastic uproar broke loose that the cattle peacefully grazing half a mile off stopped munching and raised their heads to see whence the noise came.

The afternoon the King spent mainly among the wounded. He first visited two hospital trains which were taking their suffering freights en route for base hospitals. A strapping soldier, obviously born in the Colonies, leaned forward in his seat as the King opened the door, looking critically at him a moment, then, painfully extending his hand, said, "I've often heard of you. Put it right there!" — Reuter.

## Language of flowers

From Alice M. Fennell

Sir, While stopping at Harrow-on-the-Hill tube station, I noticed that when the Daffodils are closed up they shake their heads. And that when they are opened out they nod their heads! I don't think that any body has noticed this, so that I think I'm the only one who has noticed it.

Yours sincerely,  
ALICE M. FENNEL (aged 8),  
Juniper Cottage,  
125 Harefield Road,  
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.  
March 28.











## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## The hills are alive with it

The most disturbing question raised by the Waldheim affair is "who cares?". Who cares if the Austrian president was a war criminal? Not, apparently, the majority of the Austrian people.

That there is such an apparent lack of concern about the question does not merely indicate political lethargy or naivety. As *This Week* (ITV) suggested, it indicates that Austrian anti-semitism is far from residual: as Denis Tuohy spelled it out, anti-semitism here is not dead but sleeping.

In evidence we had one manic right-wing magazine editor who cheerfully asserted that the Holocaust never happened: a somewhat extreme case. But more disturbing to those Jews now remaining in Austria was the clear message of a recent poll that a third of Austrians believed "negative clichés" about the Jews and that seven percent — a million people — manifested clear dislike of them.

Tuohy's thesis was that the Waldheim affair has brought these feelings out of the closet; the flood gates have opened, said one witness, and the feelings of 1938 are now easier to articulate. But it would surely be more likely if the Waldheim affair led to even greater repression of anti-semitic feelings, for these are linked above all to guilt at a complicity which, 50 years ago, may well have seemed both natural and inevitable.

Tuohy visited schools in Vienna and talked to young people for whom the inherited stigma of anti-semitism is less acute. There was still agreement that "people say bad things about them", though that was provided with the surprising rider that "after all, they can't help being Jews."

"When you say Jew, everyone still thinks 'outlier'," added another teenager. That view can only be countered by a long process of education, and we saw some efforts at introducing the notion of the Holocaust in the classroom, as well as instruction in Jewish traditions and beliefs.

All this, though, is a long uphill struggle, and meanwhile, Jewish schools in Vienna are heavy with security against possible attacks.

There were a few hopeful signs. The Bishop of Innsbruck has stopped the veneration of a mythical 15th-century Christian child supposedly martyred by Jews. The managing director of the Austrian National Bank has set up a group of non-Jewish business men to counter anti-semitism.

But there are far wider questions of European complicity in the Holocaust — for instance of Polish anti-semitism which has recently been raised so powerfully — and this may not be a problem which Austria can solve on its own.

William Holmes

● The Chelsea Opera Group are to give a concert performance of Sir Lennox Berkeley's opera, *Nelso*, on Thursday April 7 at Queen Elizabeth Hall. The performance, in which Justin Lavender, Christine Bunning, Fiona Kimm, Susan Kessler, Gerald Finley and Brian Bannatyne-Scott are the soloists, will be conducted by Grant Llewellyn and is in honour of the composer's 85th birthday, which is on May 12.

## When ladies take control

## OPERA

## The Magic Flute Coliseum

The new English National Opera *Magic Flute* begins with a surprise: the curtain lifts to reveal a bare stage with Tamino in the coils of an effective remote-controlled python, and we seem about to embark on the kind of denuded new vision that the posters have been suggesting. However, the surprise is momentary, and when the ladies arrive, Nicholas Hytner's production at once starts to look a lot more traditional.

This is how the evening continues. There are occasional "ideas", but the main thrust of the production is towards an amiable, plain presentation of the work. Even the one substantial innovation, that of making Pamina a more considerable figure than Tamino, is almost inevitable under present social circumstances, and perhaps more than inevitable when one has Helen Field in this role.

The very bareness of Field's voice — the vibrato-less avoidance of warmth and radiance, the flare of naked passion — fits her perfectly for an interpretation of Pamina as febrile and dynamic, as a person whom suffering propels towards action rather than causing her to languish in noble acquiescence.

She is fully at the centre of every scene in which she appears, so that it seems entirely appropriate, and not just a modest whim, that she should take the flute to lead Tamino through the trials of fire and water, and that finally she

should receive, passed on immediately by Tamino from Sarastro, the insignia of the sun. The other scene where the feminist point is made, when Pamina rushes into the temple to join Tamino, is less effective, simply because there is insufficient time to establish the discomfiture of the order and Sarastro's allowance of this break with the rules. But the handling of the chorus is altogether a weak point in this production.

Perhaps because everything happens on a flat mirror floor, groupings tend to look wooden and one-dimensional, especially at the end of the first act, when we are introduced to the human family in earthen puritan tones of brown, beige and white: a similar stiffness at the end of the second act stands in the way of a conception which feels as if it ought to be echoing the finale of the "Choral" Symphony.

Otherwise the story is straightforwardly told. The antagonism between the Queen of the Night and Sarastro is the antagonism between darkness and light. The Queen and her ladies are dressed in darkest blue (with the feathers

of Papageno's birds put to good use), and she delivers her first aria against the smoke of Buddhist incense in what is a strong and odoriferous stage picture, even if the choice of religious superstition seems a little unfair. Correspondingly, white, cream and gold are the colours of Sarastro and his entourage, the boys (a vocally strong trio) looking like bleached Christ's Hospitalers.

Bob Crowley's set perhaps predicts the victory of light by placing everything in a high white-walled semicircle, within which walls of hieroglyphs can be rolled into view (the Pharaonic motif is strengthened when Sarastro's followers come on carrying what looks like loot from the Egyptian galleries of the British Museum). There is little of nature here: only one marvellous glimpse of woodland, and a tree for Papageno to hang himself from.

However, the lack of the natural goes along with John Rawnsley's interpretation of Papageno as a sceptical north-erner and pigeon fancier, given a lot of new jokes in Jeremy Sams's translation. Rawnsley seems more at ease when he sings, and can drop the accent, achieving a good-humouredness of more naive quality.

Gwynne Howell as Sarastro also sounds as yet unsettled, speaking sometimes too fast and not managing his lowest notes. On the



Powerful antagonist: The Queen of Night (Nan Christie), and considerable daughter Pamina (Helen Field)

other hand, Nan Christie gives a totally convincing and sure performance as the Queen of the Night, scaling her high notes with aplomb.

Thomas Randle, as Tamino, shows a voice of baritone quality and of forward readiness, but one lacking in nuance and underlying strength; he will no doubt find

more in the part when he settles into a house where he is appearing for the first time.

Monostatos in this production is deliberately not a Moor; instead Alexander Oliver has to wear a frightful costume in the black-green velvet of houseflies, and he makes a suitably hideous impression. Lesley Garrett, of course,

is by contrast a delight as Papagena.

Ivan Fischer, conducting, has moments of sonorous splendour but generally favours fast tempos, making it difficult for his players to articulate. He meets his match, though, in Rawnsley's pappies.

Paul Griffiths

## Tale of dispossession

## THEATRE

## The Story of Kufur Shamma Almeida

Arriving in London at the same time as the Israeli clampdown on Palestinian Land Day reports, this fable of dispossession is the work of El-Hakawati, the only Palestinian theatre company based in the occupied territories.

I missed their previous visit to the Almeida two years ago, but this new collective piece (scripted by Jackie Lubek and François Abu Salem) confirms their claims to have assimilated pantomime, folklore, song, and political allegory into a group style. This is poverty theatre practised with a degree of technical sophistication to appeal to the world's art theatre audiences. Which, of course, is a total irrelevance from their point of view.

The manifest aim of *The Story of Kufur Shamma* is to present their people's cause and purpose to a world that has only lately been coming to acknowledge Palestinian claims. In this case they unfold a tale about the destruction of a village.

The story centres on Walid, younger brother of the village headman, who returns from Cairo University to find his home razed to a ghost-town by the events of 1948, leaving no trace of his fiancée or the rest of the scattered population. Walid and his clown companion Ka'wash embark on a pilgrimage through the desolate landscape, with the aim of tracing the lost tribe and bringing them home to Kufur Shamma.

The play is performed in a mixture of English and Arabic, with projected scene summaries. The general drift of the story is



Hulking comedian: Amar Khalil

perfectly clear; it is also clear that this is more a morale-building event for the international Palestinian community than an argumentative piece pleading their cause to the world outside. Possibly there are external constraints prohibiting anything approaching agit-prop from a company based in East Jerusalem.

What remains far from clear, to the outsider spectator, are the incidental details within the main narrative. Some of these are simply gaps in the story. Once on the road, for instance, Walid forgets about his girl-friend, who never appears again.

Will the headman sell some land for a radio station? Yes, he says, if he can go on the air himself. He is rather put out at being told that the station will be the property of HM Government. Is this a joke at the expense of his naivety, or an attack on the British mandate for refusing Palestinians their legitimate rights?

It may seem to be ducking the issue, but the theatrical life of Abu Salem's production appears less in its line of thought than in its passing episodes and images of refugee life.

It conjures up tented camps, quarries, refugee camps, from a bare sand-strewn semi-circle, with oil drums and rocks as the only furnishings. Bombardments and farmyards alike are conjured up with swishing streamers and marionette-theatre props on fishing rods.

There are moments of marvellously unexpected comedy, as where the hulking Ka'wash (Amar Khalil) drags a ferocious young fighter and carries him like a baby to the girl who fancies him. And, thanks to Nabil El-Hajjar's level performance as Walid and the narrator, the story-line never quite snaps.

Irving Wardle

## A British celebration

## CONCERTS

## LS/Knuussen Queen Elizabeth Hall

A little magnanimity from the London Symphony Orchestra, a touch of neat planning from Michael Viner, some brilliant and warm playing from the London Sinfonietta, and, hey presto, we have one magnificent concert in the celebration of British music, "A Theme with Variations", at present being promoted by the LSO.

Actually it contained perhaps more than its fair share of variations, for three of the four pieces in the programme resourcefully exploit pre-existing models, while the fourth, Tippett's Concerto for Orchestra, pays extravagant homage to the Baroque concerto grosso principle by rethinking it in the terms of today.

This work was given a stupendous performance, in which every player seized his or her chance to shine, and where, moreover, the strings in the central movement sounded as lush as any in London.

## Novosibirsk PO/Katz/Oistrakh Festival Hall

An orchestra from the capital of Siberia made a distinctive impression on its first appearance in London on Wednesday night. The State Philharmonic Orchestra of Novosibirsk reached here as part of a nine-city tour which opened in Cardiff, from where the BBC Welsh Symphony is to make an exchange visit to Siberia in May.

Will they, one wonders, take an all-Elgar programme there as the Soviet visitors confined themselves to Tchaikovsky here?

Before it came Benjamin Britten's variations on Dowland's lute-song "If my complaints could passions move", composed in 1950 and deceptively called *Lachrymae*.

It was given here in the version for string orchestra that the composer made in the final months of his life. Roger Chase, the viola soloist, made the very most of the enhanced poignancy which is the result of the rescoring; while his colleagues, guided, as was all the concert, by Oliver Knussen, offered the kind of support that only real colleagues can give.

We heard music from a younger but undoubtedly directly de-

The programme-book laid claim to a breadth of repertoire that had to be taken on trust, though from what the conductor Arnold Katz has made of this ensemble since he formed it in 1956, its versatility is not difficult to imagine.

His main calling card was an account of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* Symphony that contrasted dance-like high spirits from the second subject of the opening movement to the skipping rhythms at the start of the march, with the due sense of pathos eloquently expressed with dignity as well as sentiment.

Economical with his gestures, the conductor obtained fine grade-

scended generation in the first half. First there was Knussen's own *Music for a Puppet Court* of 1983, of which two of the four movements are more or less straightforward, though brilliantly orchestrated, transcriptions of puzzle-canons by the 16th century English composer John Lloyd.

The other two are variations of Knussen's own, each of them characterized by his fastidious ear, fertile imagination and infallible sense of motion. One suspects from his music that, in 1970, Knussen the youth might have been deeply influenced by Robin Holloway's *Scenes from Schumann*.

In these opulent reworkings of six Schumann songs are, surely, to be found some of the earliest seeds of the romantic sensibility that characterizes so much young English music today.

Stephen Pettitt

tions of tone and volume to the limits Tchaikovsky demanded. Igor Oistrakh, playing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, was enough to bring a full audience. For every such supreme artist, however, there comes a point when the approach to so familiar a work needs fresh thought.

That he had all the notes under his bow and his fingers and virtually in his blood was never in doubt from his pugnacious attack on the opening movement, or his sheer speed in the finale. But for me the performance was almost like a reflex action to the challenge.

Noël Goodwin

## Pitching for purity with Pärt

## The Hilliard Ensemble, who today broadcast the St John Passion by Arvo Pärt, talk to Paul Griffiths



Daring virtuosity: The Hilliard Ensemble seen during a performance

We live in an age of musical specialization, when the symphony orchestras are increasingly leaving Haydn and Mozart to "authentic" ensembles, when contemporary-music groups treat Schoenberg and Stravinsky as venerable classics fit for an occasional airing, and when musical medievalists cultivate their own gardens.

But, happily, there are some who will look over the wall at other plots, including the Hilliard Ensemble, who had for a decade built up a reputation as a vocal consort singing medieval, Renaissance and baroque music, before, three years ago, they discovered Arvo Pärt.

The discovery was quite fortuitous, as Paul Hillier, one of the founders of the ensemble, explains. "My wife comes from an Estonian family, and so naturally we heard about it when this Estonian composer began to attract attention."

"Then I got hold of some scores, and it seemed like the sort of thing we could do: sacred music, often for quite small forces. I also ordered the first record of his music that came out, *Tabula rasa*, and I was totally bowled over by it. I've never been quite so impressed by any music at first hearing."

"And I think it's music that does have a very strong appeal to people. I know some say that it's just a minor going on and on, and it's very boring..."

But is it boring to sing? "No!" (this is the counter-tenor David James, the other founder-member still with the Hilliard). "It's actually very difficult."

"For instance, there's a piece called *Summa*, where I just have four pitches, singing the notes of the C minor triad all the time. And

that was very hard at first, because the intervals are unusual. But then suddenly you find the vocal equipment has become acclimatized: it's like learning to ride a bike."

"Also, Pärt's music is often very systematically composed, and that can cause problems. There's an example in the St John Passion, where I sing either a rising or a descending scale on each word, always starting on A, and singing one note to each syllable. Now because the word 'crucifixeretur' has six syllables, that takes me up to a high F, which can be tricky, though it's an extraordinary effect."

It's the kind of effect Pärt seems to delight in: something which is thrown up randomly (as it seems)

by the working of a tight compositional plan, which produces a striking image without there being any subjective intervention.

Soon after Hillier heard the *Tabula rasa* record, Pärt came to this country, met the Hilliers and the Hilliards, and agreed to their performing his smaller pieces with organ accompaniment, instead of the instruments he had used in the original scores. In 1986 they sang some of his music, including the 70-minute St John Passion, at the Almeida Festival; they also gave a concert of Pärt and Rautavaara, pairing two composers who speak to each other with extraordinary closeness across the gap of eight centuries.

The only difference, of course, is

that Pärt is around to advise on performance, though he seems to have been happy to let the Hilliards find their own way through his glowing, iconic pieces.

Apart from their wholly Pärt and Pärt-Pérotin programmes, the Hilliards have sung *Summa* in mixed recitals. They have also deepened their acquaintance with the composer during the course of recording most of the pieces on his second record, *Arbas* (a recording of the St John Passion, also on ECM, is due later this year).

But for the moment, at least, this is the end, since Pärt has found himself once more at an impasse, and is not taking on new commissions.

The Hilliards, though, are continuing to encourage other composers to write for them: there are pieces coming from Gavin Bryars and Heinz Holliger. Surely the latter, I suggest, will want to use special vocal effects. "Er, yes, (this is James) 'that's what worries me'..."

But a group who will dare to expose themselves to the searching purity of Pärt's music can have few real worries.

● The Arvo Pärt St John Passion is broadcast tonight on Channel 4 at 7.40pm.

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## FRIDAY PAGE

# 'The history of religion is a perfectly valid subject, a branch of history — but is nothing to do with worship'

My school hymn was number 402 in the English hymnal and to this day, whenever I face a sticky situation I hear the young words of "He who would valiantly Follow the Master". At the time, this occasioned a brief discussion in my class as to our local synagogue to counter the Master, but never got around to it.

These days, however, religious education is a much more contentious subject. For many years, most parents of their children accepted, as mine did, the provisions of the 1944 Education Act. This required both religious education and collective worship in the schools to be attended by all pupils unless their parents requested otherwise. These religious activities were intended to be Christian, as Lord Shelbourne, speaking for the Government, made very clear at the time.

This began to change during the mid-Seventies, when religious education moved into such modish issues as sex, drug control and rain dances. The collective act of worship became a neutralised Christianity in order to include the growing number of pupils of other faiths or, indeed, gave way to celebrations such as that of Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, in October. Classes in religious education could easily turn out to be the history of world religions, or a range of pop sociology and Marxist-Leninism. In some schools, religious

education simply ceased to exist. Not surprisingly, these developments were greeted with much unhappiness by some committed Christian parents. The Dewsbury parents, for example, who will appear in the High Court on May 9, list a desire to see their children attend a Christian act of worship as a key factor in their battle to change the schools their children attend. They feel such worship no longer exists in the predominantly Muslim school in which their children are enrolled.

Two mothers in Manchester have attempted to withdraw their children from certain parts of the school assembly that are not Christian, but have been refused permission. "The distinction between religious education and the secular curriculum is not as clearcut as the 1944 Religious Act would suggest," wrote Manchester's Chief Education Officer to the mothers. "Neither LEA nor the school can give guarantees in the form you seek, that Christopher and Ryan will not be exposed to 'non-Christian' religious (sic) and traditions." Similar battles between local authorities and parents exist in other parts of the country.

Under pressure from Church leaders, the Government changed the new Education Reform Bill to include religious education and the collective act of worship as part of the core curriculum. But this did not solve the problem of

vanishing Christianity. A movement to have Christianity clearly specified in the Education Reform Bill began in the House of Lords. Baroness Cox opened the debate last month with an emotional statement of the issue: "As a nation," she said, "we are in danger of selling our spiritual birthright for a mess of secular porridge."

The debate touches on a number of issues that are of far more general concern than the religious aspect might imply. But first, one has to sort out some of the muddle. It seems to me that several aspects are constantly being confused. The first is the distinction between religious instruction and the teaching of the history of religion.

Religious instruction, of course, involves teaching pupils the tenets of a faith and it is with this that the 1944 Education Act, as well as the 1988 Act, are concerned. The history of religion is a perfectly valid subject that is a branch of history and may well involve the study of many faiths — but it is nothing to do with worship. Part of the problem today is that many schools have substituted a

comparative history of religion for religious instruction.

Much has been made of the right of minority groups to have their own prayers, particularly in those schools where they may form the majority. But, there are some questions which can be answered correctly in several ways. For example, speaking as a Jew, I would be totally satisfied in any country where the overwhelming majority of its citizens defined themselves as Christian, Muslim, Buddhist or whatever and insofar as they had religious instruction, did so in that religion. All one would ask is that the society as a whole in no way persecuted or disadvantaged those of us who wished to opt out of prayers.

Another solution might be to regard religion as a private matter that is simply not part of the curriculum except in those schools that are run by religious denominations. My own preference would be for schools to have an hour or two of religious instruction each week for every pupil in the choice of his or her specific faith. It might be a touch more expensive, of course, but if a society

wants to instil values it seems to me at least as worthwhile an investment as computers.

Any of these solutions seem to me consistent with our liberal democracy. What I do not find consistent with it, however, is this: to teach, under the heading of religious education, a system of social philosophy. It does not matter whether the subject matter is classic liberalism with which I agree or Marxism with which I most certainly do not — these are simply not religious matters. Frankly, I think it is an insidious misuse of religious instruction to teach such material. I can't see that it is a defence to say that the Christian church today is concerned with social problems, ergo religious education classes can discuss "racism" or unemployment. These matters may well be the focus of the contemporary Church's attention, but it is not their creed. Surely the metaphysical aspects of a faith have nothing to do with social issues?

Sitting on my desk are half a dozen curriculum guidelines. They illustrate perfectly what a hideous confusion takes place when you elevate a social philosophy to take the place of religious instruction. One of the GCSE syllabuses is nothing but an anti-American rant that focuses entirely on the evils of NATO and the exploitation of the Third World. The 1985 "Multifaith Manchester" is a blueprint for a sort of child-centred

religion in which selfishness seems to be elevated as the new faith. Other guidelines have produced a religious pabulum in which shamans, prophets and old men in white beards tell jolly stories and have feast days. Under the authority of God, the politburo co-exists in our religious education together with the Fabians' view of the world.

It is an entirely separate issue that the Church of England may have been captured by a progressive, more secular credo that many Christians don't like. That is not a matter for either myself or the Government — unless disestablishment is to be considered.

Meanwhile, Christians will have to decide whether or not to stay in their Church. But as Lord Arrian speaks in the Lords for the Government and tells Baroness Cox that schools need "a collective act of worship" and collective religious education in order to serve a "multifaith society", I can only wonder at his theological confusion.

Unless I missed something very major these past few hundred years, we have such major religions as Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism. We do not yet have a collective religion. Unless of course, the Government of Margaret Thatcher has decided to enshrine officially the collectivism of our decade as Britain's new state religion.

BARBARA AMIEL

they had religious instruction, did so in that religion. All one would ask is that the society as a whole in no way persecuted or disadvantaged those of us who wished to opt out of prayers.

Another solution might be to regard religion as a private matter that is simply not part of the curriculum except in those schools that are run by religious denominations. My own preference would be for schools to have an hour or two of religious instruction each week for every pupil in the choice of his or her specific faith. It might be a touch more expensive, of course, but if a society

Could you clean your home in a day — or would you rather pay two people £200 to do it?

## Clean team work

Professional cleaning businesses are being advertised as the answer to a working woman's prayer: a no-strings-attached arrangement to clean your home whenever — and wherever — you desire, that finally takes the guilt out of "getting someone in". But how easy is it to find an efficient service, what do they cost and can they really replace the consistent care of the "woman who does"? Five *Times* contributors invited local clean teams into their homes...

**THE TASK:** Spring clean the kitchen of 16th-century Suffolk farmhouse. The team: Three women, from *Dorset's Colchester*. The time: 3 hours (company rule: no eat, drink or smoke in clients' houses). The cost: £200 (quoted rate of £15 per hour plus VAT), cheque accepted.

We thought the kitchen would be a good challenge. It is 15 feet square and has two doors directly to the outside world and a sandy chaos of straw, hay and dead leaves, a procession of small children, cats, adults, and occasional dogs march through it all day long. It has a low-beamed ceiling, a picturesque filthy sink, a picture of shelves and a solid pine range. We have a good general cleaner but after 400 years, we felt that the kitchen deserved special remedial treatment.

Diners certainly inspired confidence. The firm is one year old, very slick, and about to expand throughout East Anglia in the wake of the regional boom. When their clean team drew up, we showed racks of immaculate mop, brushes, and mysterious agents, and a natty little vacuum-cleaner; all they ask is water from a tap.

The three women swarmed on tools in hand, and moved in like the SAS. Within minutes one was attacking the beams with a huge fluffy thing on a stick, bringing down clouds of dust; another was clearing the dresser of photographs, statuettes, and so on, and the third was staring severely at the grill-pan. The lead chief cleaner sternly, "There are areas," said the chief cleaner sternly, "which if we had a regular weekly contract, we would gradually bring up to scratch."

Their materials are mainly industrial cleaners ("None of those nasty CFC aerosols, of course"), but they claim there is no special magic about this, only economy. However, there was an astonishingly smelly white stuff marked Pic Disinfectant Foam Cleaner, with which they attacked the varnished wooden worktops.

and cupboard doors. "It's for more stubborn stains. I don't think you can buy it in shops." The place smelt like a hospital. I retreated.

After two hours of purposeful bustle, I persuaded them to break company policy and have a cup of tea with me. "This isn't the worst sort of house," they confided. "The worst is either the really smelly one or else the one which is already perfectly clean, but the owner is just very, very fastidious." After polishing the floor to within an inch of its life, they whisked into their van and disappeared, like a beautiful dream.

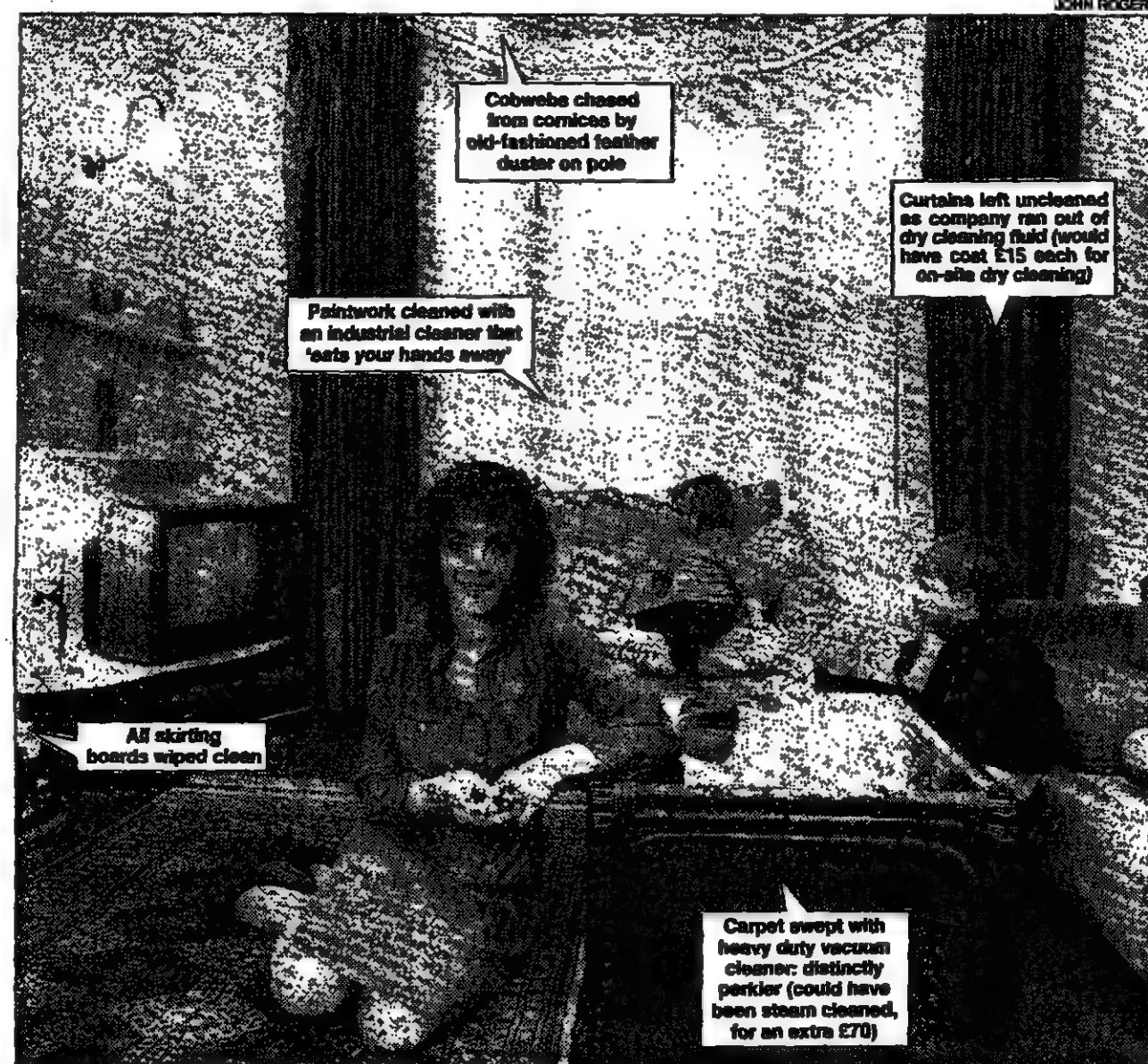
**THE VERDICT:** Well worth the money for a spring clean, but a bit of a luxury as a routine — though probably not for harassed high-earners. Interestingly, this type of professionalism removes the last vestiges of guilt about having a cleaner.

Libby Purves

**THE TASK:** Clean filthy oven, grubby fridge, kitchen cupboards and stained bathroom basin, in Edinburgh flat. The team: One woman from *Genie Clean of Glasgow*. The time: 3 hours (without a break). The cost: £50 (inclusive of £14 travel expenses and VAT), "cash on completion".

You have to be determined if you want to get your oven cleaned at the weekend in Edinburgh, and it is better not to start trying late on a Friday afternoon. The only people who would quote on the phone at short notice were two 24-hour contract cleaners in Glasgow. I opted for *Genie Clean*, who quoted £36 plus £14 travel for a number of specific tasks.

There was a false start on Saturday morning. They said they would arrive at 10am, but they could not find the street on their Edinburgh road map and went back to Glasgow via a street with the same name in the nearby town of Dalkeith. I, meanwhile, could not get through to the office, as their phone had been inadvertently left off the hook.



Happy in the house: Liz Gill in the sitting room, uplifted by the sounds of vacuuming from the top landing

**THE TASK:** General clean of five-bedroom Victorian London house.

The team: One woman, one man from *Accommodation Cleaning Services*. The time: 6½ hours (one hour over estimate, including one 20 minute break). The cost: £193 (as quoted, no extra charge for the extra hour) inclusive of VAT, cheque accepted.

Shirley Bassey, Boy George and me. There is something wonderfully quaint about knowing that the scouring pads purging your taps has recently

been attacking some celebrity's gold-plated ones.

Accommodation Cleaning Services won't "do for you" on a regular basis; what they specialize in is the one-off job at short notice. Their minimum charge for cleaning is £65. No job, it would appear, is too unspeakable for them to tackle. The team they sent me had given one house its first clean in 20 years.

What I wanted was the maximum amount of spring clean I could get for about £200. We settled on skirting boards, work surfaces, floor and oven in the kitchen; tiles

"sanitary" ware and tape in the bathrooms; paintwork, doors, cobweb chasing, and some serious vacuuming. I also included a monster of a venetian blind, whose greasy slats have been a reproach for years.

Australian Jill and Craig from South Africa started at 11am and finished at 5.30pm (they said I could have left them to it — the firm is comprehensively insured). They used ordinary brand name cleaners apart from some descaling acids and a built-bought industrial cleanser. "Eats your hands away,"

said a gloveless Craig cheerfully. The lavatory is certainly descaled but the stuff now lies in the water at the bottom and I had to clean a film of cleanser off the (albeit sparkling) bath. I didn't fancy a Craig's hands effect on the children's skin.

**THE VERDICT:** There was nothing I could not or would not have done myself. On the other hand there can be few sounds more uplifting than someone else vacuuming into the far corners of the top landing.

Liz Gill

**THE TASK:** Spring clean ground floor (excluding kitchen) of converted 18th-century Sussex water mill (complete with grinding stones, sluices, cogged-wheel drives and designer cobwebs). The team: One woman, one man from *Poppies of Brighton*. The time: 5 hours, inclusive of two five-minute breaks. The cost: £60 as quoted (inclusive of VAT and travel expenses), cheque accepted.

Of the 16 companies I rang in the area, only six handled domestic cleaning and only two were prepared to do the job to meet a pre-Easter deadline. *Alpine Cleaning Services* appeared more professional but wanted £128 to clean the mill room (two people for eight hours). Vacuuming the beamed ceiling would cost £64 extra.

So we settled for Poppies. "You'll probably want us to use your cleaning materials," said Marilyn, who owns the Brighton franchise of the nationwide cleaning business. "It will cost you another £1 an hour if we bring ours and they'll be no different from yours."

She delivered her cleaning team — Kate and Roy — at 11.15am, along with the tools of their trade. It's mainly the floor, isn't it? she asked. I said I thought we had agreed upon a general clean, dust and

polish. And what about the window frames? "Well, we'll see how they get on," said Marilyn.

Kate and Roy threw themselves into action. It turned out that Marilyn had given them a five-hour deadline, paying them £10 each.

When they left, on the dot of 4.15pm, the floors shone, the juke box sparkled and the window frames had lost their layers of grime.

**THE VERDICT:** No doubt I could have done as well myself but 10 hours is 10 hours, and work and play somehow seem to take priority over housework.

Sally Brompton

**THE TASK:** Spruce up neglected parquetry floor, dining table, chairs, sideboard and kitchen table in semi-detached house in Solihull. The team: Three women, one man from *Genie Cleaning Services, Birmingham*. The time: 2½ hours, half an hour over estimate, no break. The cost: £32 as quoted (£16 an hour inclusive of VAT, no extra charge for extra half an hour), cheque accepted.

In my local Yellow Pages there was only one advertisement for "cleaning and maintenance" contractors targeted squarely at the domestic market. When I phoned *Genie Cleaning Services* at 7pm on a Friday night, Mike Haywood,

founding father of *Genie*, was able to fit me in "on Tuesday at 2pm". His team arrived at 3.15pm — having phoned to apologise for running late — and he said that for jobs like mine he usually charged an hourly rate.

*Genie* brings its own cleaning materials. In the allotted time the two women and one 17-year-old girl (later revealed as Haywood's wife, sister-in-law and daughter) and Haywood himself also cleaned the kitchen (including the floor), washed the windows in the kitchen, living and dining room and vacuumed the carpet. But I fear they simply forgot about the kitchen table.

The new shine on the parquetry floor was imparted not by wax but by a special industrial preparation, non-slip. They recommended Antiquax for the wooden furniture, first cleaning off "layers of grease" with a mysterious chemical. My chairs and dining table looked a lot smarter — but my sideboard was stripped of much of its rich colour and looked dry and pale. "That's the way it's supposed to be," Haywood assured me.

**THE VERDICT:** The woodwork was squeaky clean and the parquetry pristine. But I had to take the cat tray off the kitchen table and the wellies out of the living room.

Victoria McKee

## No Big Ears in the Big Apple

Noddy, England's oldest toy boy and hero of Enid Blyton's 24 books, is still picking up the pieces of a disastrous venture in America.

The sad story of his exploits, pounding the streets of Manhattan trying to crack the case enclaves that remain indifferent to his naughty little charms, is documented in *The Selling of Noddy* on ITV this Sunday.

"What because patently clear in the first couple of days of negotiations was that Noddy didn't have a chance in hell without his own film or weekly television cartoon," Bob Mullan says. He is the producer who charts exporter Derek Parker's assault on the American market.

Parker won a year's contract for the merchandising and book rights from Purnell, the British publishers. His three-pronged strategy included Noddy nappies, T-shirts and dolls, the books, an animated film, and a 7½ Noddy eddy to help with marketing. But pitted against *Transformers* and other macho American television characters with a regular weekly slot, the chances for Noddy (who has sold 70 million books elsewhere in the world) looked bleak.

Not easily discouraged, Parker and his American partner started a cartoon, but before long the coffers were depleted. *Darrell Waters Limited*, who administer Blyton's estate on behalf of her heirs Gillian Baverstock and Ingeborg Smallwood, have now appointed a new exporter and are trying again.

Goblins and bears have replaced goliwogs, but whether they will keep the critics at bay remains to be seen. The books have been consistently criticised for their middle-class values, Noddy



Noddy woot the land of Liberty and Big Ears's sexual proclivities, Blyton's racism and sexism, and her banal prose. One ignominious little passage in *Here Comes Noddy Again*, where three goliwogs mug Noddy, strip him naked and career off in his car, has gone down in the annals of infamy in children's literature.

"What people often forget is that Noddy's car was in fact a present from Gilbert Goliwog who runs the garage and who is a very kind person indeed," says Mary Tjepstier, publishing director at Purnell. James Ogilvy, managing director of *Darrell Waters* adds: "What's interesting is that Ghana, India and Nigeria have goliwogs and we have drawn no comment from them."

Even without the US, the Blyton industry ticks over on a healthy \$1 million a year. Book sales are awesome. Her 700 titles have notched up sales of 500 million, and have been translated into 126 languages. But Noddy is generally agreed to be living in a 1950s time warp that may eventually lose its charm. Now his supporters are getting on with the job of hauling Noddy into the 1980s.

Angela Brooks

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## SATURDAY

A breath of cool, fresh air The beauty of Iceland

From Manhattan to Madrid Weekends for the adventurous



## Where is today's Michelangelo?

Religion once dominated Western art, but the subject no longer seems to inspire artists. "Official art in British churches has become a matter of pious things in little pious places," says one expert. Sarah Jane Checkland looks for today's version of the Madonna and Child.

... plus Easter Jumbo Crossword

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BBC1

**11.00** *Week AM.*  
**11.05** *Jack Kennedy in Cloakwise*  
A look at regional news and weather followed by *The Playhouse* (9) 7.40 *The Pink Panther Show*. Three cartoons (9).  
**11.35** *Regional news and weather* followed by *The Muppet Movie* (9).  
**12.00** *Cartoons.*  
**12.30** *Willy, Jungle Medics and Sea for Two* 8.55 *Regional news and weather.*  
**12.55** *News and weather* followed by *Latest Hobo*. *Adventures of a German Shepherd* dog (9).  
**1.00** *Why Don't You...?*  
**1.05** *Entertaining ideas for children* at 10.00 and 10.00 *Bananaman* 10.05 *Going for Gold* (9).  
**10.25** *Children's BBC.* Simon Parkin with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play School* (9).  
**10.35** *Stories.* According to St Mark, Roger Rees with the fifth of seven films made on location in the Holy Land telling the story of the last days of Christ. Today, the public trial and humiliation of Jesus and His nailing to the Cross.  
**10.45** *The Way of the Cross.* A meditation for Good Friday led by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, in Jerusalem.  
**11.00** *The L.M. Magazine* series 12.55 *Regional news and weather.*  
**12.55** *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hain. Weather. 5.15 *Neighbours.* Ruth's plan to make Jim jealous backfires.  
**1.00** *Film: The Flight of Dragons* (1983) An animated adventure with the voices of John Hurt, Peter Egan, John Jones, James Morgan, Victor Buono and James Gregory. A young man, Peter, is taken back in time to help a group of friendly wizards to rescue the Red and Crown stolen by the wicked Ormaddock. Directed by Arthur Rankin Jr and Jules Bass.

**3.10** *Film: Born Free* (1966) starring Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers. The true story of George Adamson, a senior game warden in Kenya, and his wife Joy, who reared one of three orphaned lion cubs. Directed by James Hill.

**4.45** *Children of Courage* introduced by Esther Rantzen and Gavin Campbell (9). 5.35 *Neighbours* (9).

**6.00** *Six O'Clock News* with Philip Hain. Weather 6.10 *Regional news and sport.*

**6.15** *Miracle of the Salmon Salmon.* A natural history documentary telling the story of the sockeye salmon's return to the river of its birth to spawn and expire. Filmed by American Rick Rosenthal, a salmon fisherman and marine biologist. (Ceeba)

**7.00** *Wogan.* Among those appearing tonight are the actress Cher and comedian Kelly Montahan.

**7.40** *Every Second Counts.* Comedy quiz show.

**8.15** *Dynasty.* The fun of an Elizabethan fair, with Alexs dressed as the Virgin Queen, turns somewhat sour with the help of Krystle. (Ceeba)

**9.00** *News One O'Clock News* with Philip Hain. *Regional news and weather.*

**9.15** *Film: Raspberry Wagon* (1987). (Ceeba) (see Ombra)

**10.40** *Russians Stunned Melod.* With Suzanne Murphy (soprano), Sarah Walker (contralto), David Rendell (tenor), John Tomlinson (bass) the BBC with chorus and Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes.


**11.30** *The Gospel According to St Mark* (9).

**12.00** *Film: Bus Stop* (1956) starring Marilyn Monroe and Don Murray. Comedy romance about a cow-tow bar singer and her over-the-hill alcoholic and Jewish admirer. Directed by Joshua Logan.

**1.30am** *Weather.*

- BBC2 -

**10.00** **Celebs:**  
**12.45** **Film: Western Union (1941)**  
 Starring Robert Young and Randolph Scott. Adventure story about the fight to construct the first transcontinental telegraph system in the United States. The Western Union company meet opposition in the form of Sioux Indians and a group of renegade Southerners. Directed by Fritz Lang.  
**Fingermouse (r, 12.45)** **Pel -**  
**Fugitive Dog (b/w), with Gary Gray.**  
**1.00** **Music: Bobby Charlton -**  
**Footballer.** A profile of the popular former England and Manchester United player, written by Frank Keating (r).  
**1.30** **Sport on Friday introduced by David Icke. Motor Racing: rounds one and two of the Formula Three championship from**  
**Thruxton and Silverstone, plus a preview of the Brazilian Grand Prix. Boxings: action from this week's Barrett/Duff promotion at Wembley including the**  
**Hagen/Henken/Vasica fight. Newsing: a preview of the 1982 Sixes. Horse: Golf: a look forward to the first major tournament of the season - the US Masters at Augusta.**  
**1.55** **Documentary: World from Bernside.**  
**2.00** **Film: The Tall, Old Thunderbolt (1952) starring Stanley Holloway, George Holf and Naumton**  
**Wayne.** This first comedy to be made in colour is set in the village of Trilfield where residents' anger is high after their railway branch line is sixed. A pressure group led by the vicar insists to have the line re-opened; another, led by the local bus company, is intent on seeing the line stay shut. Directed by Charles Crichton.  
**10.40** **Cartoon: In The Fresh Painter (b/w).**  
**1.15** **Music: Requiem introduced by Michael Berkeley. A performance recorded at the Concertgebouw, Groot Hall, Amsterdam, with Elizabeth Gale, Sarah Welker, Robert Tear, John Shirley Quirk, the BBC Welsh Chorus and Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Neville Martin.**



**Artie Shaw, jazz band leader and clarinetist (BBC2, 12.40pm)**

**7.15** **Film: The Borrow and the Pity (1971, b/w).** Michael Ignatieff introduces the first of a two-part documentary about life in France under the German Occupation. This evening's programme covers the early years of the war and the seeping up of the Vichy government. Directed by Marcel Ophüls.

**8.15** **Arena: Byrne About Byrne.** John Byrne, painter and author of *Tutti Frutti*, directs this autobiographical film about his youth, time at art school, his stage and television plays and on to the future and his death. Starring Robert Coltrane, Bill Peterson and Richard Wilson.

**10.10** **A Bit of Fry and Laurie.** Comedy from Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie (r).

**10.40** **Film: The Dresser (1963)** starring Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay. Comedy drama about a naughty actor/manager, having trouble making ends meet, and his long-suffering dresser and right-hand man. With Edward Fox, Zena Walker, Eileen Atkins and Michael Gough. Directed by Peter Yates.

**12.40** **Film: Artie Shaw - Time Is All You've Got (1984, b/w).** An Oscar winning documentary profile of the legendary clarinetist. Written, produced and directed by Brigitte Berman. Ends at 2.40.

## ITV/LONDON

**6.00** **TV-am** includes Good Morning Britain from the studio at 6.30 and from Florida at 7.30 and 8.30. Plus, at 8.15, Rowan Atkinson Pasco reporting from the site of the Crucifixion.

**9.00** **Wackaday** with Timmy Mallett in Denver, Colorado.

**9.25** **Lucky Ladders**, World association game 9.55 Disney at Easter. Cartoons

**10.10** **Film: Million Dollar Duck** (1971) starring Dean Jagger. A Walt Disney adventure of a duck that lays eggs with solid gold yolks. Directed by Vincent Minnifrey.

**12.00** **The Way of the Cross**. In the ancient church of St Dunston and All Saints, Anglican Bishop Jim Thompson is joined by his Roman Catholic counterpart, Bishop Victor Guazzelli, to reflect on some of the stories of the Stations of the Cross, aided by contributions from people who live or work in London's East End.

**12.30** **Quaverdude**, Quiz game presented by Matthew Kelly. The guest is Diana Moran.

**1.00** **News** with Fiona Armstrong.

**1.10** **Film: Buck Rogers in the 25th Century: The Awakening** (1979) starring Gil Gerard and Erin Gray. Lightweight science fiction adventure in which the hero is launched in a 1980s spacecraft that is blown off course and he is frozen a 500 year detour. On his re-awakening in the 25th century he is with the Draconian fleet on its way to a peace conference on Earth. Directed by Daniel Haller.

**3.00** **Games**. Rag trade serial, set in London 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**.

**4.00** **Cartoon**. **4.15** **Snow White's 50th Birthday Special**. Dick Van Dyke with the story of Walt Disney's success in animation and his own keen interest in the Snow White fairy tale. With contributions from Jane Curtin, Sherman Hemsley and Linda Ronstadt.

**5.15** **Chitra Play**, Uns Stubbs and Dennis Taylor try to discover who or what young children are describing. Presented by Michael Aspel.

**5.45** **News** with Fiona Armstrong followed by LWT News and weather.

**6.00** **The Price Is Right**. Game show

**7.00** **Film: Knight Rider - The Movie** (1982) starring David Hasselhoff, Edward Mulhare and Vince Edwards. A made-for-television adventure about a Vietnam veteran who is gravely injured when he tries to break-up a ring of industrial saboteurs. He is re-built with his brain on the same wavelength as the speaking computer of his indestructible motorcar - Knight 2000. Directed by Dan Haller.

**8.30** **Watching**. Comedy love story starring Paul Brown, Emma Wray and Liza Tarbuck.

**9.00** **Fire & Ice** starring Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. An ice spectacular featuring former world, European or Olympic finalists and dancers drawn from Britain's top ballet companies, with music by Carl Davis performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra (1).

**10.00** **News** with Fiona Armstrong.

**10.15** **LWT News** and weather followed by **The Word**, - **The Gospels**. The world television premiere of a new interpretation of Gospel stories composed and performed by Rick Wakeman.

**11.45** **Hunter**. Part one of a two-episode story in which Hunter and McCall investigate the death of a woman in the grounds of an embassy.

**12.45** **News** from the Sun.

**1.00** **Night Network** presented by Tom Watt includes guests Jamie Long, Leon Herbert and, from the world of auctions, Sophie May, Alison Fox and Lisa Wallis.

**4.00** **Basketball '88**. Kentucky v Florida.

**5.00** **ITN Morning News**. Ends 6.00.

**12.15 Film: Opera on Four — Parsifal.** The first of a season of programmes chosen by Channel Four's former chief executive, Jeremy Isaacs. Richard Wagner's last opera, in three acts, based on medieval legends, tells the story of the Knights of the Holy Grail who are guarding two Christian relics — the spear that pierced Christ's side and the chalice into which His blood spilled. The Knights are demoralised after the spear is stolen and a new leader is chosen — Parsifal, an innocent fool. With Robert Lloyd, Edith Kliever, Amin Jordan and, as Parsifal, Michael Küller and Karin Kriegl. With the Monte Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Prague Philharmonic Choir conducted by Amin Jordan. Directed by Hans Jürgen Syberberg.


**4.30 Fitter to One.** The grand final of the general knowledge quiz game presented by William G. Stewart.

**5.05 Pierre Yala Theatre Beauty and the Beast** starring Klaus Kinski and Susan Sarandon. Based on the 18th century French tale written by Madame La Princesse de Beaumont about a poor merchant who takes refuge in a forest castle. In the morning he leaves, taking with him a rose for his youngest daughter. His host, a ferocious beast, demands retribution — the merchant's life or one of his three daughters. Directed by Roger Vadim.

**5.00 The Chart Show** News and weather.

**7.10 Amazon Journey.** A documentary film diary of a six-week river expedition by 15 Oxford University undergraduates travelling over 1,000 miles of the Amazon from Machu-Pichu, the city of the Incas, to Pucallpa in the Peruvian jungle.

**7.40 Anno Pi: St John Passion.** The Hilliard Ensemble and the Western Wind Choir conducted by Paul Hillier perform the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's St John's Passion, recorded at Durham Cathedral. The work is sung in Latin with English subtitles.



**Karen Krick in the British TV premiere of Parsifal (C4, 12.15pm).**

**9.00 The Cosby Show.** Award-winning American domestic comedy series starring Bill Cosby. (Oracle)

**9.30 How Does Your Garden Grow?** Philip Wood and David Wilson visit the two acre Ballymena garden of Robert and Dorothy Simpson which they have taken 30 years to perfect. (Oracle)

**10.00 Frasier.** Tonight, Frasier spots the romantic mood with Lilith when he tells her that before they marry they must set a pre-nuptial agreement. Starring Ted Danson and Kirstie Alley. (Oracle)

**10.35 Film: Sitting Ducks (1978)** starring Michael Emli and Zack Norman. A comedy drama about Simon and Sidney, two small-time crooks who make a lot of easy money from Simon's employers, but then run into a series of strange encounters. Directed by Henry Jaglom.

**12.15am Film: Marvin and Howard (1980)** starring Paul La Mar, Jason Robards and Mary Steenburgen. The story, based on fact, about Melvin Dummar, a factory worker turned milkman down on his luck, who one day gave a lift to the multi-millionaire Howard Hughes and was left a fortune in Hughes's will. Directed by Jonathan Demme. Ends at 2.05.

# VARIATIONS

**BBC1** WALKER: 1.30am-1.35 News and weather  
**MONTY** PILLOW: 10.40pm The Cruciflexion 11.35 The Gospel According to St Mark 11.45 Praise: Sabbath Masses 12.55am-1.40 News and weather  
**BBC2** WALKER: 4.15pm-4.40 Gardening Together  
**ANGELIA** As London except 11.45pm-12.45am Film: The Phantom  
**BORDER** As London except 3.30pm-4.00 Young Doctors 11.45 Special Squad 12.45am Closesown.  
**CENTRAL** As London except 1.45am Film: Another Side of Midnight 2.55am-3.55am America's Top Ten 3.55-5.00 Soapie's Top Ten 4.55-5.55 Midtown.  
**CHANNEL** As London except 3.30pm-4.00 Young Doctors 4.00am Close  
**CRAMPION** As London except 1.55pm-2.45 Blockbusters 6.05-7.00 North Tonight 11.50 Nine to Five 12.25am News, Closesdown.  
**GRANADA** As London except 3.30pm-4.00 Young Doctors 11.45 Film: The Other Side of Midnight 2.55am-3.55am America's Top Ten 3.55-5.00 Soapie's Top Ten 4.55-5.55 Midtown 4.55-5.00 Closesdown.



Faye Dunaway as the glamorous "M", a young disabled boy's fantasy figure in Raspberry Ripple (BBC1, 9.15pm)

## Sugaring the pill of disability

● A young man sentenced to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair, Rick (John Gordon-Sinclair) combines an un-sentimental acceptance of his lot with fantasies derived from his passion for Hollywood gangster films. Inspired by the portraits of Bogart and Edward G. Robinson which adorn the walls of his room, he dreams of emulating his celluloid heroes by blowing open a safe and beating it across the border to Acapulco. In this fantasy the stern matron of his long-stay hospital becomes transformed into the split-skirted, blonde-wigged boss of the Chicago underworld. This is the cue for a double role by

### TELEVISION CHOICE

that the play has some basis in fact since it is based on an idea by Gurmet Kasbe, who both suffers from spinal muscular atrophy and developed a crush on Faye Dunaway while watching her as the female half of *Bonnie and Clyde*. The idea of being forced by disability to retreat into an imaginary world is plausible enough, and so is the point made by *Raspberry Ripple* that it can only be a temporary palliative. As drama, however, the theme is never developed beyond somewhat innert parallels be-

[illegible]

# FINAL END-OF-SEASON EASTER SALE!

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**Stereo** (medium wave), Stereo on FM (see below)  
News on the half hour from  
**6.30 am** until 9.30pm, then at intervals of 15.00 minutes.  
**7.00 am** Mark Goodger **7.25 am**  
Simon Bates's Breakfast Show **8.30 am**  
Simon Bates **12.30pm**  
Garry Davis **12.45 pm**  
Garry Davis **3.00 pm** Steve Wright  
**3.30 pm** Newsbeat **5.45 pm** Singled Out  
**7.00 pm** Jeff Young's Dance Music  
Nightclub (Radio Rock) **7.30 pm** Rock  
Show (Tommy Vance) **PM**  
Stereos Radio 1 and 2-**4.00 am** as  
As Radio 2 **10.00 am** As Radio 1  
**11.00 am-4.00 am** As Radio 2

**Radio 2**

**Stereo** (medium wave). Stereo on FM (see Radio 1)  
News on the hour (except **6.00 am**)  
Sports Round-Up **6.30 am** and  
**6.45 am** Colin Berry **8.30 am** John  
Murray **7.30 pm** David Jameson **8.30 am**  
Ken Bruce **11.00 am** Desmond  
Carrington **1.05 pm** David Jacobs  
**2.05 pm** Alan Titchmarsh **3.30 pm**  
The Evening News **5.00 pm**  
**5.10 pm** Hubert Gregg **7.30 pm** Friday Night  
at Music Night **8.45 pm** Tony Mordock  
on Music Night **10.00 pm** with  
**10.30 pm** Night Ogden with the  
Ogden Entertainers **10.00 pm**  
**11.00 pm** **11.30 pm** The  
Grammies/best **11.00 pm** Billy Butler  
**11.00 am** Biff Rennells presents  
Nightside **3.00-4.00 am** A Late Night  
Music.

**WORLD SERVICE**

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.  
**6.00 am** World Service 6.30 (Hearst)  
**6.30 am** World Service 6.30 (Hearst)  
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**6.05 News** and weather  
**7.00 Morning Concert:** Heino Eller (Dawar: SNO under Javri); Hadley (One Morning in Spring; LFO under Boulet); Ireland (April: Eric Parkin, piano); P.D.Q. Bach (Echo Sonata); John Schuen, violin; Arthur Arner, drums; Loran Goldkorn, bassoon.  
Theodore Weiss, trumpet.  
William Brown, horn, and  
John F. Biss, trombone;  
Stebius (Spring Song:  
Bouanmouth SO under Berglund) **7.30 News**  
**Morning Concert cont:**  
Biber (Mystery Sonata No 10 in G minor: Francisco Maier, baroque violin, Mix Engel, baroque cello).  
Konrad Junghahn, theorbo, and Franz Langhammer, organ; Podenco (Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence: Groupe Vocal de France under Allais); Haydn (Intermezzo (The Seasons Last Words from the Crocus Hungarian State Orchestra under Ferencsik); Vivaldi (Concerto in E flat, RV 268: English Concert under Pinnick); Rameau-Korsakov (Russian Easter Festival Overture: USSR SO under Erdos).

**8.30 News**  
**8.05 Composers of the Week:** Alkan, *Maria funebre sulla morte d'un peccatore* (Metropolitan Opera Studio under Lewentz); Stravinsky concert, Op 47 (Moray Welsh, cello, and Ronald Smith, piano); Bartok, Op 65 No 6 (Lewentz); Beethoven, Op 77 No 6 (Bernard Ringwaldt, piano); Barocelle, Op 67 No 6 (Smith, piano).

**9.05 Langham Chamber Orchestra:** Mendelssohn (Symphony No 10 in B minor for strings); Honegger (Pastorale d'été) and Haydn (Symphony No 84 in E flat). Conductor is Meredith Davies.

**10.30 News** by BBC and Frank Marcell: Performance by BBC Singers, City of London Sinfonia, under Simon Joy, Bach (Cantata No 28; alto, who flutters, not chirps); Handel (Martin Passacaille cantata: Pieta) **10.50 Interval** reading

**11.30 City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra:** Wagner (Overture: The Flying Dutchman); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor); and Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody in minor) Conductor is Oskar Klem, with Mihaly Dichter (piano).

**1.00 News**  
**1.05 Chamber Music** from Manchester: Park Lane String performance (String Sextet in E flat) and Glère (String Sextet No 1 in C minor, op 1)

**2.00 News** and then a Requiem: Recording of last year's performance by young musicians from 28 nations. Conductor is Jeffrey Tate.

**2.30 City of Birmingham Symphony:** Rubato: recital by BBC Scottish SO under Hickox, with Melvyn Tan, Harpersford, of Rubina Symphony No 11 and No 10, with Frank Martin (Harperford Concerto (r))

**4.30 Weeping by the Cross:** Music by Arvo Part performed by the Chameleon Ensemble.

**5.00 Indiana Voices:** The life music of Leon Jayasak, compiled by Patrick Harperford, of Edinburgh. Passio and Barbara Leigh (r)

**6.30 Humour in Jazz** (see page 10)

**7.00 News**  
**7.05 Third Ear:** Morag Hood Gray to playwright Simon Gray about his new comedy *Green Purse*.

**7.30 Miserere:** Psalm-setting by Marc-Antoine Charpentier. With the Choir and Orchestra of the Chapelle Royale.

**8.00 Whose is the Kingdom?** Seventh of nine plays by John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy about the Church and Social Justice. Hosted by Emma with Elizabeth Spriggs, Michael N. Harbour, Mary Winshaw and Sam Casser.

**9.00 Nash Ensemble:** Part One. From *Seven Years in a Monastery* and Gordon Graess (Wilby).

**9.55 Words with Nicholas Penny (r)**

**10.00 Nash Ensemble:** Part two. From *Septet* in E flat, Op 20.

**10.30 The Seven Last Words:** by Haydn. The seventh word performed by the Primrose Quartet in a 1941 mono recording.

**11.00 Composers of the Week:** Strauss. Recordings of Mahler (sung by Jesse Norman); Memorial waltz: Mahler (1945); Duettino between orchestra and four Last Songs (sung by Felicity Loti) (r)

**12.00 News**  
**12.05 News:** Heimweh performed by Barry McDaniel, baritone, and Robert Spilman, piano (r)

**LW** (long wave), (S) Stereo on FM  
**5.55** Shipping **6.00** News  
Shipping **6.00** Weather  
**6.30** Farming **6.30** Players for the Day (S)  
**6.30** Today presented by John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor, incl **6.30**, **7.00**, **7.30** News **8.00**, **8.30**, **9.00** News **9.30**, **10.00** News **10.30**, **11.00** News **11.30**, **12.00** News **12.30** Yesterday in Parliament **1.00** Your London **1.30** Weather; Travel

**9.00** News  
**9.05** Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's choice  
Hailstorm at St Marylebone (S)  
(A) Radio: (7 of 8) Novelist Josephine Hall revisits Alexandria (r)

**10.00** News: Preparing a Place: Hannah Gordon, Peter Braham and Peter Farr trace the story of the betrayal, trial and crucifixion of Jesus through poetry and prose from Clifton Parish Catholic Cathedral, Bristol, With John Gibbons, organist, Margaret Pearson, obso., and Thomas, cantor of the Clifton Cathedral Choir (S) (see Choice)

**10.45** Short Stories for Holy Week: Mary of Magdala by Sam Bealland. Read by Mariam Margolyes

**11.00** News: Analysis: The Road from 1945: What could be the new political landscape for the early 21st century? Peter Hennessy talks to Professor David Marquard, Sir John Hoskyns and Professor Eric Hobsbawm (r)

**11.47** Treasures Islands: A new series: The children's book programme with Penelope Lively focuses on what makes children laugh

**12.00** News: You and Yours: with Carol Kirkland looks at news on high-tech veterinary surgery

**12.25** The Food Programme: with Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather

**1.00** The World at One: presented by John Sergeant

**1.40** The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping

**2.00** News: Woman's Hour: presented by Dilly Barlow in 1994. Includes an hour in the life of a store detective, plus items on setting up a sanctuary for battered wives, a woman and computing group and a drive to get more women to play hockey

**3.00** News: The Image of God: Passion. From five English mystery plays by David Buck. With John Rowe as Jesus, Peter Jeffrey, John Shrapnell, Anthony Jackson, Michael Denison, Nigel Stock and Debra Messery (S) (r)

**4.00** News  
**4.05** Nation of Shopkeepers: John Walte reports on five small businesses  
Butcher's in Robertson, West Yorkshire, run by the Buckle family (r)

**4.30** Teleshop  
**5.00** PM presented by Bill Frost and Hugh Sykes **5.30** Shipping **5.45** News

**5.00** Six O'Clock News with Charlotte Green

**6.30** Going Places: Olive Jacobson, Bob Ecclesford and Martin Mann with travel and transport news

**7.00** News  
**7.05** The Archers: Further tales from Ambrose

**7.30** Pick of the Week: Margaret Howard presents her selection from the week's television and radio programmes (S)

**8.20** Any Questions: Jonathan Dimbleby with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, author Frederick Raphael, CND Chairman Bruce Kent and Daily Express Assistant Editor Jean Rook. From Camberlay in Surrey

**9.05** Stop Press: Michael Elliott with a personal view of the week's newspapers

**9.30** Letter from America: by Alice Childress

**9.45** Kateridose: Paul Allen investigates the state of the arts in Barcelona

**10.15** A Book at Bedtime: Leaving Home written and read by Graham Kerridge. More tales of the American mid-west (5 of 10) **10.25** Weather

**10.30** The World Tonight: presented by David Sells

**11.05** Perchance to Dream: An exploration of prose verse and prose with Prunella Scales and Timothy West (r)

**11.45** Good Friday Meditation: with Rt Rev Patrick Leach, Bishop of Seilford (S)

**12.00** News, incl **12.30** Weather **12.30** Shipping Forecast

FM as above except 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner 5.50-5.55 PM (ZT)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m; 108.9kHz/277m; VHF-88-90.2, Radio 2: 93.3kHz/433m; 90.9kHz/330m; VHF-88-90.2, Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m; VHF-90-92.5, Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95, LBC: 1151kHz/261m; VHF 97.3, Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95-98, BBC Radio London: 455.8kHz/200m; VHF 94.9; World Service: MF484kHz/483m.



## War-time diary's clue to killings

By Robert Fisk

A faded entry in the 44-year-old diary of a wartime British liaison officer in the Aegean has provided the first tentative evidence that the six British Commandos executed after interrogation by Dr Kurt Waldheim's *Wehrmacht* intelligence unit in 1944 spent at least six months in captivity near Dr Waldheim's headquarters before their murder by Himmler's secret police.

It had been thought that Sub-Lieutenant Allan Tuckey, Gunner Raymond Jones and four other British Commandos captured on the Greek island of Alimnia were murdered by the Germans shortly after questioning by Dr Waldheim's colleagues at Salonika. Dr Waldheim, the Austrian President, has himself said that he had no knowledge of the British prisoners or their fate.

But former Warrant Officer James Long, who was with the Allied military liaison headquarters on the newly-liberated Greek island of Lesbos in the autumn of 1944, yesterday unearthed his wartime diary when his memory was jogged by the morning's front page story in *The Times* about the closure of British wartime files that may involve Dr Waldheim.

An examination by *The Times* of files at the Public Record Office at Kew seemed to indicate that Dr Waldheim may have collaborated with American and British intelligence in return for the "purgings" of his *Wehrmacht* record.

"I found an entry in my diary marked October 10, 1944, about a signal I had sent to F Force 142, the British raiding force headquarters under Brigadier Turnbull," he said yesterday. "The entry is very faint, but at the time I wrote: 'Tonight sent signal to raiding force headquarters saying six BORs (British Other Ranks) held at the house in Salonika, awaiting early execution.' There is no other entry in my diary about this. I cannot remember where we got the information from. But if this is true, what happened to these men?"

There is no indication in Mr Long's diary as to the exact identity of the six British prisoners nor whether the "house" to which his diary refers was Dr Waldheim's headquarters or the local German security police office in Salonika to which it is known the six Alimnia Commandos were taken after German military headquarters in Belgrade had ordered that they should be subjected to "special treatment", the Nazi euphemism for execution.

If the six Commandos were indeed still alive in Salonika six months after their interrogation, Dr Waldheim must have known about it — and about their ultimate fate.

The Germans abandoned Salonika a few days after Mr Long's diary entry. Dr Waldheim himself left the city on October 14 around the date that the six men — if they were the Alimnia Commandos — were presumably murdered.

## Royal Maundy gifts for young and old



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh received a "fee" in the form of Maundy money. The Queen distributed Maundy gifts to 124 elderly men and women in a ceremony dating back to the 12th Century. The cathedral, in Staffordshire, was packed for the service.

Royal Maundy purses were handed out to 62 men and 62 women — one for each year of the sovereign's life. The recipients, selected for services to the Church and community, received purses containing silver pennies, twopences, threepences and fourpences —

legal tender and highly valued by collectors.

The origins of the service lie in the Last Supper, when Jesus spent the evening before he was crucified with his disciples and washed their feet.

## Early sunseekers hit Easter queues

Continued from page 1

with destinations in Spain, North Africa and the Canaries proving popular. Scheduled flights were in heavy demand.

Mr Roger Gibson, the deputy operations control manager for British Airways, said: "There are very few seats left on any services from Heathrow." Planes to the Continent were filling up fast, and extra aircraft were being put on to Spain, Portugal and the Mediterranean islands.

Virgin Atlantic said that its service to Miami was fully booked over the holiday.

But Gatwick should be less crowded with the recent opening of the new North Terminal. A spokesman said that the airport was expecting a 10 per cent increase on its Easter passenger total last year of more than 200,000.

On the roads, drivers will have to contend with the usual motorway hazards. The Automobile Association warned of delays on the M25 around London at three sets of road works — at the Dartford Tunnel, Hertfordshire and Surrey. Other motorways out of London, such as the M3

and the M11, have lane closures, and the M5 in Worcestershire and the M6 in Lancashire and Cumbria have roadworks.

On the railways, long-distance routes will be crowded despite 200 extra trains running over the holiday period. British Rail advised passengers to check travel details in advance and to reserve seats on popular Inter-City routes.

According to the London Weather Centre, outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, will spread from the north to all parts of the country by tonight. Tomorrow and Sunday will also be cloudy and cool with sunny spells and occasional showers.

Walsingham vigil: Pilgrims carrying heavy wooden crosses will today arrive in the Norfolk village of Walsingham to keep the Easter vigil and its two holy shrines. The 150 pilgrims have walked more than 100 miles from six starting points in Britain to celebrate Easter. On Sunday, they will decorate their crosses with daffodils and dance in the street.

Mr Smith, who is widely seen as Mr Hattersley's heir apparent on the right of the party, will have to unite hostile factions. Of the two, Mr Cook will have the more difficult job now that Mr Prescott's candidature has split the soft left.

A senior source said last night: "John is the standard bearer of the centre right and Robin is a very important figure for the centre left. The two of them symbolize the

## NUM hint at deal on flexibility

By Roland Rudd

The National Union of Mineworkers yesterday indicated that it might be prepared to give up its opposition to flexible working if British Coal guaranteed a package of concessions.

In the first meeting of its kind since June 1987, Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal, said the corporation was willing to "resume consultative procedures" if the union accepted that "the world has changed and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers exist".

Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, put forward 14 points, which included negotiated wage increases, payment of lost wages during the pit deputies strike, an end to closure of "economically viable" pits and a backdated pay increase to cover the period the miners were on strike.

Sir Robert said he could not compromise on backdated pay but would be prepared to discuss the other issues after the NUM provided details in writing.

## Kinnock chooses same 'dream ticket' team

Continued from page 1

alongside Mr Eric Heffer as a potential deputy leader.

It was also regarded as further evidence of Mr Kinnock's high-risk strategy of staking his personal authority on the re-election of Mr Hattersley, whose performance and commitment has been questioned since the election.

One leading supporter of Mr Prescott said: "They have gone straight to the top but they want to be careful — this might be the Trojan horse for the next leadership contest."

"John's challenge is seen as a very serious one and it will be a successful one."

Mr Kinnock, who is widely seen as Mr Hattersley's heir apparent on the right of the party, will have to unite hostile factions. Of the two, Mr Cook will have the more difficult job now that Mr Prescott's candidature has split the soft left.

A senior source said last night: "John is the standard bearer of the centre right and Robin is a very important figure for the centre left. The two of them symbolize the

new centre-left, centre-right mainstream in the party reflected in the growth of the Tribune Group.

"You have in the Tribune Group now a very large number of people who span a good cross-section of the left, centre left and centre and Robin Cook takes you into the centre left of the Tribune Group."

"If you take what he represents and what John Smith represents on the centre and centre right of the party, you have represented in the campaign a pretty good swathe of opinion, which is very important both politically and electorally."

Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley believe that they can get across their message mainly through continuing with their customary duties in Parliament and the party. However, their campaign team will seek to bolster this exposure with special events and meetings.

Mr Prescott, who enjoys close links with trade union leaders and party activists in the regions, will find little difficulty in securing a platform for his campaign.

## Commons sketch

## Billions hived off the daydreamers

A morning sitting produces strange effects on Members of Parliament. Bleary-eyed they stumble forth, flopping into their seats with hair unkempt. Many fail to enter the Chamber at all, leaving the empty seats to argue their corners for them. Those who manage to stand and speak do so only with the greatest difficulty, while regular hecklers can only drum up the odd cough and splutter.

A canny Government would take the opportunity to whizz some hideous new piece of legislation — The House of Commons (Privatization) Bill or the Scottish Affairs (Total Abandonment) Bill — through the House. The Opposition wouldn't have an eyeful sufficiently open to Hunter.

But yesterday the Tory benches seemed to be playing it safe, while from the Labour benches there came the odd cry of considerable loquacity, the nightmare cries of hallucinating Members.

Mr Graham Allen (Lab, Nottingham North), lean, moustachioed and unsmiling, always gives the impression of being the original man to complain about a fly in his soup, though it seems probable that he would also complain about the tablecloth, the service and the main course as well. Such people are horribly perky in the morning, desperate to draw the rest of the House into arguments on idiotic topics. Mr Allen wished to know what the Minister of Agriculture was going to do about the foal brood.

Mr Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbyshire North East) posted the Prime Minister, an Easter greeting of ludicrous bad taste, quoting Christ on the cross saying "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me," and going on to ask when she would stop forsaking the poor of the country. Mrs Thatcher, obviously flattered by the role given her in the absurd analogy, seemed to take it all as a cross, a sorry Easter compliment and spoke excitedly of Government resources.

Mr Patrick Cormack sent his own Easter Tidings. "When the Rt Hon Lady goes to Church this Easter Sunday, will she reflect, as she puts her money into the fund, that 15 per cent will be passed on to her next-door neighbour?"

Whoops! The Easter Card had been opened, and a boxing glove on a spring had bounced out. No, there were no plans to alter VAT, replied the Queen Bee, slamming the card shut once again.

A few minutes later, the Queen Bee buzzed to her feet, armed with a hive of statistics and percentages demonstrating the well-being of her workers. The Leader of the Opposition fluttered around her, waving the worse-off in

her face. He believed that it would be an historic day, "the first Maundy Thursday in history when, instead of giving to the poor, the head of Government has taken from the poor."

Boom! Boom! From the highest to the lowest, MPs take a touching delight in juggling age-old mutterings by dragging in a date, a festival, an anniversary or anything that will lend their grievances a veneer of topicality. Christmas, Mother's Day, New Year, Easter, like Intifada, MP's say all ways concoct something a little special to tie in with the occasion. But Mrs Thatcher seemed displeased with her Easter greetings. Two BILLION extra for this, three BILLION extra for that, she belted, belting out her BILLIONS like a child with its very first Toy Bank.

"Answer the question!" "What about the war widows?" came the sleepy cries from the Opposition as she bundled through her BILLIONS. "I AM answering the question," she said, not answering the question. She then produced the brand new statistics that the average family gives £64 a week to the Social Security, a statistic the House is doomed to hear repeated for many weeks hence.

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Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1386.7 (-11.4)

FT-SE 100  
1742.5 (-14.4)

Bargains  
35548 (35784)

USM (Datastream)  
144.50 (-0.82)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8855 (+0.0165)

W. German mark  
3.4224 (+0.0096)

Trade-weighted  
78.1 (+0.4)

More cuts  
in home  
loan rates

A number of the newer mortgage lenders brought down their mortgage rate yesterday in response to the Halifax's lead.

The Japanese Sumitomo Bank, already among the dozen cheapest lenders at 9.9 per cent, set its new rate at 9.4 per cent, the cheapest in the market.

The Halifax's new rate is 9.8 per cent. Abbey National, which has not moved this week, stands at 10.1 per cent.

National Home Loans Corporation shaved its Libor-linked mortgage by 0.413 of a point to 9.687 per cent. The Mortgage Corporation came down 0.2 to 9.75 per cent and the TSB-owned Mortgage Express by 0.45 to 9.75 per cent.



Kenneth Fleet raises the question of an alternative bid for Rover in his column tomorrow

£1m Sintrom

Sintrom, the computer peripherals and systems group, produced pretax profits of £1 million last year, slightly down on the previous 12 months. The dividend is unchanged at 2.2p.

Discount chief

Mr JC Barclay, chairman of Catter Allen, has been appointed chairman of the London Discount Market Association. His deputy is Mr GE Gifford, chairman of Union Discount company.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1967.67 (-10.45)
Tokyo	2280.29 (-59.81)
Hong Kong	2549.97 (+15.09)
Amsterdam	240.8 (-2.7)
Sydney	1415.8 (-0.8)
Frankfurt	1577.5 (-2.2)
Geneva	4830.8 (-12.2)
Paris	284.1 (-3.4)
Zurich	436.6 (-1.4)
London	
FT-30 Share	1386.7 (-11.4)
FT-100	1742.5 (-14.4)
Gold Mines	227.4 (-1.4)
20-year bond	97.50 (-3.77)
Govt Secur	91.03 (-0.31)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

IBEX	6724p (+150)
Alcatel	80p (+80)
Microfilm	140p (+120)
Photo-Me	420p (+100)
FAIRF	
WMS Simpson A	445p (-100)
Alclark	275p (-100)
Boothman B	414p (-80)
Cine Gold	370p (-200)
Continental	220p (-100)
Eastern House	400p (-250)
Joseph	427p (-100)
House of Lore	185p (-150)
Granham	155p (-120)
BM Group	370p (-140)
Shaw	287p (-110)

INTEREST RATES

Bank Base	6 3/4%
90-day interbank	8 1/4-8 1/2%
3-monthly bills	8 1/4-8 1/2%
1-yearly rate	
Bank Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Bankers' Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.72-5.71%
30-year bonds	100 1/2-100 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London		New York	
£/\$	1.8855	£/DM	1.6573
£/Sfr	1.224	£/Yen	169.80
£/FF	1.5671	£/Ffr	1.6185
£/Yen	169.80	£/Yen	169.80
£/Yen	169.80	£/Yen	169.80
£/Yen	169.80	£/Yen	169.80

GOLD

London		New York	
£/oz	445.00	£/oz	445.00
£/oz	445.00	£/oz	445.00
£/oz	445.00	£/oz	445.00
£/oz	445.00	£/oz	445.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Best (May)	pm \$15.65/bbl (\$15.80)
24-hourly trading price	
Best (May)	pm \$15.65/bbl (\$15.80)
24-hourly trading price	

# Lawson boost for sterling

## Pound at DM3.12 as 'brake is removed'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Sterling surged strongly yesterday, boosted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's renewed emphasis on the defeat of inflation in preference to exchange rate stability.

Dealers said the Chancellor's evidence to the all-party Treasury and Civil Service Committee at the House of Commons late on Wednesday had removed the brake from sterling.

It continued yesterday where it had left off in late trading in New York on Wednesday, rising strongly. The Bank of England made an early attempt to hold it down by selling sterling, but the intervention was not thought to be heavy and foreign exchange traders said the Bank was probably just testing the market.

The pound closed 1.5 pence higher at DM3.1252, and rose by 1.65 cents to \$1.8855. The sterling index rose by 0.4 points to 78.1, its highest since January 1986.

Money market interest rates eased slightly, but there was no pressure for an early base rate cut and traders said a further rise in the pound would be needed to bring this about.

The pound's strength hit the stock market, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 14.4 points

down at 1,742.5. Gilts, however, showed gains of up to half a point.

"The markets see that Mr Lawson is toying the line as far as monetary policy is concerned," said one senior foreign exchange dealer in London.

"It is difficult to see interest rates coming down very quickly and the pound will continue to benefit from the huge interest rate differential in its favour."

The Chancellor, in his evidence to the MPE Committee, not only refused to discuss

target ranges for sterling, but also raised the possibility of a steady rise in the pound's value.

"It may be that we are so successful that we can have a gradually appreciating exchange rate as a result of this success," he said.

"The Chancellor implied that the stance is much more narrowly focused on inflation," said Mr Richard Jeffrey, director of economic research at Hoare Govett. "I would expect them to allow sterling to rise, it could reach DM3.15 very quickly and DM3.20 before too long."

The Chancellor's emphasis on inflation, and the discipline this would impose on in-

dustrial costs, in particular, has convinced many observers that, having had a change in policy forced upon him, Mr Lawson will run hard with it.

"It looks as if the Government will let sterling rise further in order to bring down inflation to below the official forecasts," said Mr David Walton, an economist at Goldman Sachs.

An inflation rate of 3.5 per cent by the end of the year was looking more likely than the Treasury's forecast of 4 per cent.

Although the Bank of England and the Treasury appear to be operating a tactic of deliberately keeping the markets guessing, foreign exchange dealers were aware of the possibility that the authorities could be setting a trap for the speculators by pushing down sterling strongly when the upward pressure eases.

Yesterday, however, despite relatively thin pre-holiday trading, the absence of significant Bank intervention encouraged the view that the authorities would use this weapon much more sparingly in future.

This and the apparent contradiction between the anti-inflation aims of policy and the prospect of early cuts in interest rates have made sterling almost a one-way bet, dealers said.

# Japan worry weakens dollar

By Our Economics Correspondent

The dollar continued to fall yesterday, as the markets waited to see whether fears of a 'big sell-off' of the US currency by Japanese institutions would be realized.

In the past few days, in spite of statements to the contrary from the Insurance Association of Japan, the expectation has grown that with yesterday's March 31 year-end out of the way, Japanese life insurance companies will now dump the dollar.

There has been speculation that insurance companies have been refraining from dollar sales, and may have been supporting the dollar, to avoid the embarrassment of

having to declare 15 per cent losses on dollar investments.

Japan's Ministry of Finance decreed that if the yen-dollar rate fell below an average of ¥126.83 in March, these losses must be declared.

The dollar fell to ¥124.18 in London trading yesterday, down from ¥125.05 at the previous close. But its higher level earlier in the month was enough to ensure that the average was achieved.

But now, according to foreign exchange dealers, the game has changed and the dollar could quickly drop below the all-time low of ¥120.45 reached early in January.

"The only thing keeping the

dollar up is the prospect of intervention by the central banks," said one London foreign exchange dealer. "The yen and sterling are the currencies to be in."

Officials at the Ministry of Finance have repeated their commitment to the Group of Seven accord on stabilizing the dollar in recent days, and the Bank of Japan is expected to intervene to stem any dollar fall that results from April 1 actions.

But dealers believe that, set against a bearish market sentiment on the dollar, even heavy intervention by the Bank of Japan may not be enough to prevent it going below ¥120.

# NatWest sets up \$1bn loan

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank yesterday said it had applied to the US Securities and Exchange Commission for a shelf registration of \$1 billion (£530 million) of subordinated capital debt. This gives the bank the opportunity to raise debt of up to \$1 billion in the US market over the next two years, after which the period can be extended.

NatWest said it had applied for the registration simply to have the facility available if it was needed. But it had no plans to raise any dollar debt capital. "We have done several debt issues this year and the registration opens up the US market if we want it," a spokesman said.

NatWest has had a shelf registration of \$250 million since 1982, of which it has used \$100 million. The new registration is in keeping with its policy of maintaining a proportion of its capital in dollars.

# Expansion halted at Jewellers Guild

By CHM Feilham

BAT Industries is taking a close look at the future of its chain of Jewellers Guild shops.

BAT will not comment on market speculation that the business is up for sale, but yesterday admitted that the store opening programme had been temporarily halted. BAT said it was examining the "concept" of the business.

The company, which is fighting a takeover bid for the California-based Farmers Group, says that last year the south east - suffered disappointing sales because of the fierce competition in the £2 billion-a-year jewellery trade.

Jewellers Guild was launched by BAT as a spin-off from its successful Argos catalogue showroom chain in 1984.

In 1985, BAT opened 11 stores, followed with ten in 1986 and stepped up the pace last year with another 29 outlets.

BAT refuses to say whether

the business has ever made a profit, but the limited size of the chain probably means that this has been unlikely.

Jewellers Guild represents a 'tiny part of BAT's retailing business, particularly alongside the highly successful Argos operation which now trades from more than 200 showrooms. BAT is now Britain's second largest jewellery retailer.

● BAT Industries has won a preliminary injunction against the enforcement of a Nevada anti-takeover law, which could have impeded its \$4.5 billion (£2.5 billion) bid for Farmers, the Los Angeles insurance company.

The injunction, granted in the Nevada Federal District Court, prevents Nevada from imposing a 60-day time limit on the BAT tender offer for Farmers shares. The offer, launched at the beginning of March, has just been extended until April 27 and is likely to be rolled forward until the regulators approve.

# Sock Shop founder wins award



Champagne all the way: Sophie Mirman celebrates her award yesterday (Photograph: Bryn Colton)

# Business title for Sophie Mirman

By David Brewerton

Sandwiched between the editor of *Elle* magazine, Sally Brampton, and the Businesswoman of the Year, Sophie Mirman of Sock Shop International, Lord Young of Graffham appeared at ease yesterday - a sharp contrast to his similarly sandwiched position between Graham Day of Rover and Professor Roland Smith of British Aerospace earlier this week.

Looking the former winner Debbie Moore straight in the eye, the noble lord was able to talk about sex, the differences between men and women, deliciously obvious, and opportunity.

The Businesswoman of the Year Award, sponsored by the champagne house Veuve Clicquot and the Institute of Directors, brings together the twin themes of enterprise and the abilities of women. Lord Young, over-exposed to both in the course of his ministerial duties, was the obvious choice to present the award, at the LoD in London.

Less obvious was picking the woman who would carry off the prize in the footsteps of not only Miss Moore but also Anita Roddick and Jean Yrrel.

Few people will have heard of Clare Gallagher, one of the six finalists. She was nominated by Sir John Harvey-Jones, an accolade in itself, for her demanding job as production planning manager of the Organics Division of ICI in Huddersfield.

Miss Mirman could find no takers when she offered 49 per cent of Sock Shop's equity for anyone ready to finance the start-up for the modest sum of £45,000. Kick yourself, venturers.

Meanwhile, the Good Man behind the Great Woman, Richard Ross, Mr Mirman, circulated quietly - quietly, that is, except for his flashy socks - out of range of the cameras.

He plans to open another nine Sock Shops in New York this year, to add to the three already operating there. And the attractions of New York?

"Legs," replied the man from the shadows, as his wife cut the celebration cake and the shutters clicked.

David Brewerton was one of the judges in the Businesswoman of the Year Award.

# Greenspan rejects plan for regulating Wall St

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, yesterday rejected proposals to establish a new regulatory structure to monitor Wall Street following the October crash.

In testimony to Congressional officials, Mr Greenspan said the proposals to establish a new framework to correct deficiencies in the market would be counter-productive. He feared it would drive business overseas and so segment the market place that the broad co-ordination sought would not be achieved.

Mr Greenspan's testimony surprised some members of Congress who are urging the creation of emergency powers to prevent another crash. Several said that given the dollar's renewed performance on Wall Street, there could be another disaster in coming months.

The hearings before the Senate Banking Committee included the heads of the three regulatory agencies which have authority over US securities and futures markets. There is widespread disagreement among them over how to respond to the October crash.

Mr David Ruder, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, argued for broader powers for his agency to take such actions as establishing its own "circuit breakers" in the event of a market emergency. At the same time, in sharp contrast

to Mr Greenspan's remarks, Mr Ruder indicated he would like to see larger margin requirements.

Both officials urged the banking committee, which has proposed broad new legislation to defer action on the bill until after a newly-established presidential committee has reported its recommendation. The committee, headed by Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, has until May 18 to submit recommendations.

White House officials established the committee at the 11th hour because of the internal bickering over turf among

the regulatory agencies. In addition, the Administration hoped to head off legislation submitted by Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the banking committee.

Mr Greenspan said the issue of margin requirements was so controversial that it must be studied further. The lack of consensus reflected differences in objectives. Officials must decide whether the objective of new margin requirements is to control leveraged speculation or to simply protect the market, he said.

Congressional officials indicated their growing impatience over the slow speed with which reforms were being implemented. One senator said the White House decision to appoint yet another presidential commission was a delaying tactic which could retard the reform process in an election year.

Because of the sharp divisions among regulators, senior Senate officials said they doubted legislation would be passed this year.

# CLEAR SIGNS OF A SOUND BUSINESS STRATEGY.

	1987 (£'000s)	1986 (£'000s)	% Change
Turnover	91,203	87,242	+4.5%
Trading profit	16,138	15,175	+6.3%
Profit before tax and exceptional	13,645	13,123	+4.0%
Earnings per share after tax	11.63p	10.83p	+7.4%
Dividend per share	3.97p	3.70p	+7.3%

The year ended 2nd January 1988 saw good progress in difficult trading conditions, with profit before exceptional items increased by 5.0% to £13.7m over the comparable year in 1986.

A strong second half performance was reflected by important developments in the implementation of the Group's business strategy. The Group is now more broadly positioned in the retail, brewing and leisure industries, and poised for the future in each sector.

- Marketing expenditure to support all brands increased to £2 million.
- Beer distribution and warehousing successfully contracted out to TNT.
- Brewing operations rationalised with closure of Oldham brewery.
- High level of investment sustained in retail estate.
- Continued expansion of catering activities: 13 Henry's Table outlets trading profitably, and six more will open in 1988.
- Non-brewing activities including Ogden Wade and Village Leisure Hotels trading well.

Annual General Meeting, Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, Peter Street, Manchester, 11.45 am Thursday 5th May 1988.

Copies of Annual Report can be obtained from: The Company Secretary, Strangeways Brewery, Manchester M60 3EL.

THE VILLAGE HOTEL

HENRY'S TABLE

BODDINGTON



## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## A&amp;M Group seeks up to £2m in placing

A&M Group, the USM-listed television studio, stage and furniture hire company, has embarked on a capital-raising exercise because of exceptional write-offs in its non-core businesses. Its results for the year to end-January will show a substantial below-the-line loss incurred by diversifying into catering hire. The non-core operations may now be sold.

A&M will be raising between £1 million and £2 million through the placing of new 10p shares. Existing shareholders will be able to apply for shares. A&M made £241,000 pretax in the first half against £83,000 for the 1986-87 year.

## Elys increases to £713,000

Elys (Wimbleton), the department store group, reported pretax profits up from £473,000 to £713,000 in the year end-January. The final dividend was 11p, making a total of 12p for the year, up from 10.5p last year. Earnings per share increased by 42 per cent to 38.7p. Sales, including VAT, rose 15 per cent to £10.4 million.

## Edwards for Bell division

Robert Holmes & Court, the chairman of Bell Group, has appointed Mr Michael Edwards, provost of City of London Polytechnic, managing director of London-based Bell Group International. Mr Edwards replaces Mr Alan Newman, who becomes chief general manager of Bell Group. Mr Edwards is a director of Bell Resources.

## Blenheim tops £1.4m

Blenheim Exhibitions, Britain's leading exhibitions and conference organizer, more than doubled pretax profits from £602,000 to £1.43 million in the year to end-February, and is lifting the dividend from 1.05p a share to 2.4p. Last September's acquisition, Online, made profits of £1.35 million in calendar year 1987, comfortably outstripping the warranted profits of £875,000.

Blenheim says its over-riding aim is to increase earnings and dividends per share and achieve strong cash generation. "We are moving forward fast," said Mr Neville Buck, the chairman, "and I am confident the momentum will be maintained." The company now has a portfolio of events with a significant second half weighting.

## Berry, Birch lifts profit

Berry, Birch and Noble, the USM-listed financial services and insurance broking group, lifted pretax profits from £909,000 to £955,000 in the year to end-January. The figures, which include those of the Etherington group, show earnings per share up from 9.3p to 10.4p, and the dividend is lifted from 2.8p to 3p a share.

## L&amp;G plans to raise £187m

Legal & General Group plans to raise £350 million (£187.26 million) by a Euro-commercial paper programme. Funds from the issuance of new paper will be used to refinance existing short-term debt. The programme will be supported by medium-term committed facilities arranged with a number of banks.

## Senior leaves questions unanswered

Senior Engineering Group is asking shareholders to take it on trust that 1987 was a reasonably good year. But even after a close look at the figures, it is by no means easy to be sure that this was the case.

At least seven deals involved cash and paper. There was a one-for-three rights issue at 60p to help fund expansion and redress the balance sheet. And despite the financial impact of a 13-month disruption at the Sale factory of Senior Colman, pretax profits in the year to December advanced from £7.62 million to £9.26 million.

However, it is a source of irritation that the group will not break down just how much acquisitions contributed at the pretax level. Such a breakdown is badly needed to measure organic growth. Analysts will be left with question marks, especially as 1987 was clearly not a year when everything ran smoothly.

It is academic whether it is called a strike or a dispute, but the Sale upset cost Senior £1.22 million, charged as an exceptional item above the line. The good news is that the problem is in the past. Also, management has learned a lesson from one loss-making contract in the US last year and will be avoiding too ambitious contracts from here on.

Because of the weight of a share capital expanded by a rights issue and a placing, net

earnings a share show only a modest advance — from 5.09p to 5.22p a share.

But the rate of increase should be markedly higher in 1988. The pretax profit line from now should start to look more impressive as acquisitions make a fuller contribution and because the current year has started off on a strong footing.

The year ended with gearing down from 27.8 per cent to 6.7 per cent, having been up to 60 per cent at one point during the year. Net cash at the year-end was £12.7 million. Since December 31 some of the cash pile has been spent on two more deals, and there is another in the wings.

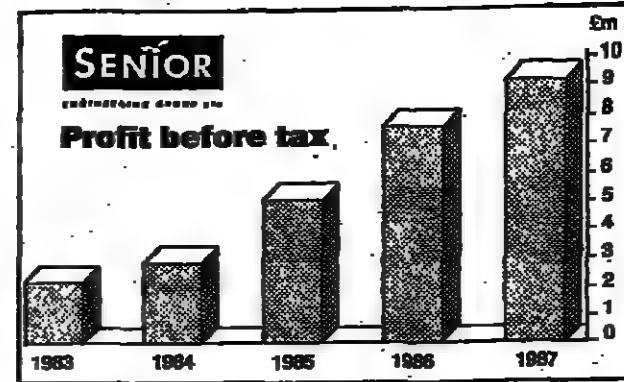
Some divisions, notably mining, are likely to remain dull performers, but Senior — now shot of loss-makers and with good order books in most areas — should be good for pretax profits in the £13 million region in 1988.

The shares at 54p, down 2p, offer a prospective price earnings ratio of 8.4 — roughly in line with that of the mechanical engineering sector.

But because Senior should marginally outperform its sector, there is a case for buying — though not for chasing.

## Sintrom

Mr Terry Cave has had to take some tough decisions since leaving Control Data, the large US company, last year



and stepping down a division to take over as chief executive at Sintrom, the Reading, Berkshire, manufacturer and supplier of computer peripheral systems.

The re-structuring which he initiated led to a move from volume business to higher value products where the competition is less fierce and the margins are more comfortable. The results should begin to flow through strongly in the current year.

For the year just ended, Sintrom marked time, with pretax profits marginally lower at just over £1 million, on turnover up from £16 million to £17.5 million. Earnings per share rose 11.6 per cent to 7.7p.

There was an absence of any contribution from the Perex manufacturing business which had made about £500,000 the year before. Mr Cave and his team withdrew from the de-

sign and volume manufacturing of tape streamer products, writing off unwanted stock, and conducting a thorough overall accounting for a good slice of the £324,000 extraordinary charge.

Elsewhere in the group, the Sintrom Electronics distribution arm, notched up its best year ever and there were fine performances from LRT, Sintrom's local area network company, and Systmatic, the maintenance side which is active in a market place growing at an estimated 60 per cent per annum. Margins increased across the board by 6 per cent.

Sintrom has now been honed into four distinct sectors focusing on computer distribution and service. The order book has recovered to record levels and is currently 50 per cent higher than a year ago.

With prospects of Perex

returning to its former profitable levels, Sintrom should be good for about £1.7 million in the current year. Acquisitions are being actively considered up to £7 million, possibly in the maintenance area.

The shares have recovered some ground since the market fall but there still remains a very strong family holding of about 70 per cent which has not helped liquidity.

Assuming the family decides to accept some dilution if shares are issued as part of an acquisition, then at the current level of 95p, the shares look fairly valued.

## Anglo/B&amp;H

Next Friday, April 8, shareholders approving and Stock Exchange permitting, dealings will restart in both Anglo United and Burnett & Hallamshire (which will resume under the new name of NSM).

Since their suspension at the end of January, the final touches have been put to a complex rescue plan for the sorry mess that has existed at B&H since it embarked on an ill-fated diversification programme in the early 1980s.

Under the scheme, Anglo will swap its British coal business, worth £42 million, and about £20 million of related debt, for a 31.4 per cent stake in B&H. B&H is raising £52 million in new money via a rights issue, which has been underwritten

by Kuwaiti interests. The deal, approved by Anglo holders and due to be voted on by B&H next Thursday, will see NSM emerge as a pure open-cast mining company, with 25 per cent of the British market, gearing of 33 per cent, falling to 30 per cent if and when its San Diego property is sold; agreed borrowing facilities of £30 million; and a cash acquisition a good way up the pipeline.

It will have Mr Dominic Carr, the Tarmac managing director, in the chair.

When NSM reports in June it will show some hefty losses for the year ended yesterday, but noting that has not been accounted for in the refinancing. Analysts are pencilling in profits of £11 million for the new year. There will be no tax charge.

Leaving aside the Kuwaitis, primed to take on 25 per cent of NSM but expecting between 15 and 20 per cent, institutional interest at the rights price of 7/8p — the shares were suspended at 14p — has been strong. Buyers are expected up to 10p, and every 1p on the share price adds £4.6 million, or 4p a share, to the value of Anglo, whose own prospects as a debt-free fuel distribution group are enhanced, too.

Given B&H's history, investors may be a little cautious, but followers believe this scheme leaves everyone a winner. Both shares look exciting.

## Elders Resources rises 54%

Melbourne (Renter) — Elders Resources yesterday forecast a large expansion of its minerals marketing and gold output, with the main contribution expected from the reverse takeover of New Zealand Forest Products.

The 47.5 per cent-owned associate of Elders IXL had earlier reported a 54 per cent

rise in net profit for the first half of the year ended December 31, to Aus\$26 million (£10 million).

Elders Resources said the Aus\$970 million reverse takeover of Forest Products, under which the New Zealand company is bidding for Resources, was endorsed by an independent report.

The company said Price Waterhouse, the accountant, described the complex Forest Products bid for Resources as "fair and reasonable."

In Auckland, Forest Products' shareholders used an extraordinary meeting to force a decision on the proposed merger to a shareholders' vote, expected on April 7.

## GEC drops to a low of 145p as analysts fear slower dividend growth

Shares of GEC, the electronics company, hit a low yesterday with a fall of 2p to 145p as brokers continued to take a cautious line on prospects for the group.

About 10 million shares changed hands on talk that analysts at James Capel, the broker, had joined the growing band of disgruntled brokers which has cut profits forecasts.

Earlier this week its rival Merrill Lynch, the New York securities house, reduced its estimate of full-year pretax profits from last year's £680 million to £670 million. Some brokers, like Barclays de Zoete Wedd, had been looking for a final figure of £690 million.

Merrill has blamed its downgrading on a change in the pattern of orders from British Telecom, one of GEC's biggest customers. It also gave a warning that the traditional rush of last-minute orders from the Ministry of Defence has failed to materialize.

Brokers now fear that the possible slowdown in profits growth will also take its toll on GEC's fast-growing dividend. At the interim stage, the group rewarded shareholders with a 20 per cent increase. But the analysts are arguing that scope for a similar rise in the final dividend is now limited.

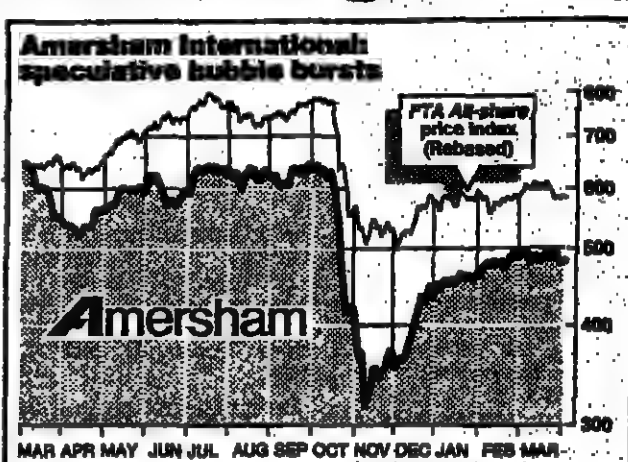
The rest of the equity market spent another disappointing session with fund managers and brokers alike taking advantage of the depressed conditions to make an early start to the Easter break. Those who remained at their desks were occupied in squaring their books ahead of the new financial year next week.

The lack of support was clearly reflected in share prices which drifted throughout most of the session but managed to close just above their worst levels. Turnover slowed to a trickle with just 337 million shares traded on the Stock Exchange's computers.

The FT-SE 100 ended the second leg of the three-week account 14.4 lower at 1,742.5, while the narrower FT index of 30 shares lost 11.4 to 1,386.7 having been as low as 14.6 points off.

But the latest surge in the pound was good news for Government securities, reviving hopes of a lower early cut in interest rates. Prices at the longer end of the market closed with gains stretching to more than 1/4.

However, the pound's



strength turned out to be bad news for the big dollar earners — most of which suffered an early markdown before clawing back some of the losses. Falls were seen in ICI, down 14p to 980p, Glaxo 5p to 993p and Jaguar, 7p to 276p.

The prospects of a full bid for Amersham International, the high-tech and healthcare group, have suffered a setback this week following the Government decision to leave its "golden share" option, which blocks any unwanted bids, in place. The market has been hoping that the Government

Tilbury, the construction group, slipped 3p to 337p after learning that John Gove had raised its holding in the company from 8 per cent to 15.6 per cent. Last year it held a similar stake which was sold on to Raine Industries although a bid attempt by Raine was later aborted. This latest move by John Gove has revived hopes that it may be lining up another bid.

would allow the option to lapse yesterday, the first date on which it is legally entitled to do so.

Amersham is still regarded as the most vulnerable of the privatization issues. The news earlier this year that BP would be allowed to proceed with its £2.5 billion offer for Britoil only served to increase speculation. This led to suggestions that it was now open season for the privatized companies.

But there are other hurdles to cross, apart from the Government, for any company wanting to try its luck with Amersham. The group's articles of association prevent any single shareholder from holding more than 14.9 per cent of the company. Any potential

bidder would have to be assured of winning at least 75 per cent of the votes and altering the articles of association before being guaranteed that its bid would succeed.

In the past Amersham's name has been linked with the likes of ICI and Fisons in Britain and Pfizer and Abbott in the US. The name of Wellcome has also been mentioned as a possible suitor.

Whispers in the market claim that Wellcome has already carried out a feasibility study into the chances of a bid succeeding. Amersham would make a good catch for Wellcome, which has been leading the fight against AIDS.

But it is rumoured that the proposal of such a bid has met opposition from some members of the Wellcome board. Its shares finished the day 9p lower at 444p.

Storehouse remained a firm market, climbing another 6p to 232p after deciding to withdraw its Habitat Moterecare business in Holland, which has been operating at a loss.

Earlier this week there was talk that it had secured an approach for its British Home Stores subsidiary. Dealers claim Next, which has just produced a sparkling set of figures, is the mystery buyer. Analysts claim Next is in need of more floor space and may soon be forced to hit the acquisition trail. The rumours were enough to clip 5p from Next at 261p.

Amstrad, the consumer electronics group headed by Mr Alan Sugar, slipped 2p to 155p. Talk in the marketplace claims that Mr Sugar has seen a number of brokers and urged them to tone down their profit forecasts for the current year.

Back in February, the group reported a 26 per cent rise in interim profits to £90 million. Most analysts are now looking for £135 million for the year compared with £135.7 million last time.

Michael Clark

## BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCI	8.50%
Consolidated Bank	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co.	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Yorkshire Bank	8.50%

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# WPP buys Henley Centre for maximum of £18.55m

By David Smith

WPP Group, the British advertising company that last year took over the Henley Centre, yesterday announced the acquisition of the Henley Centre, the London-based consultancy.

WPP, run by Mr Martin Sorrell, is acquiring the Henley Centre, which specialises in social and economic analysis and forecasting, for an initial payment of £3 million, split into £2 million cash and £1 million of WPP ordinary shares.

The six directors of the Henley Centre, who between them own 70 per cent of the shares, have signed six-year "non-compete, non-solicitation" contracts with WPP.

This will avoid the sort of problems faced by WPP in New York where it is fighting a court case over the abrupt departure of senior executives

from its JWT subsidiary Lord, Geller, Federico and Einstein.

Further payments in cash and shares will be made over the period to 1992, dependent on the post-tax profits of the Henley Centre. The final consideration will be based on a formula of 10 times the post-tax profits of Henley for the three years ending in August 1992, subject to a maximum of £18.55 million.

This maximum will include a bonus payment of up to £10 million, half in cash and half in shares, if the Henley Centre achieves a growth rate in post-tax profits of more than 25 per cent a year over the five years to 1992.

Management accounts for the Henley Centre for the six months to the end of February showed pretax profits of £413,500 and the directors predict pretax profits of

£540,000 in the year to the end of August.

The Henley Centre, with a staff of 47, roughly half owning equity in the company, was originally an educational charity attached to the Henley Staff College. Last year it acquired company status, and was exploring the possibility of an eventual flotation on the unlisted securities market when Mr Sorrell made his approach towards the end of last year.

Mr Robert Tyrrell, the director of the Henley Centre, said that under WPP it would retain its independence and that he foresaw no difficulties with the Centre's other advertising agency clients.

WPP said in a statement: "Henley's unique range of consultancy services will provide the group and its clients with a strategic resource which

will develop an understanding of how markets and consumers change, the economic implications arising from social and political factors, and ways in which it is possible to transform the understanding of that change into profitable marketing decisions."

The Henley Centre, set up in the 1970s by Mr James Morrell, was originally an economic forecasting unit but branched out into social research and forecasting in the late 1970s. This work, while still in its infancy, has proved popular with companies planning marketing strategies for the future. The Henley Centre's clients include Asda, Boots, BP, British Airways, Midland Bank, Nabisco, Prudential, Shell, Unilever and Whitbread.

WPP shares were up 3p at 514p.

## Dutch buyouts for Habitat

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Retail Affairs Correspondent

Storehouse, the retailing group run by Sir Terence Conran, is closing three Mothercare stores in the Netherlands and has completed a management buyout for three Habitat shops which will be run under franchise.

The six stores traded at a total £1 million loss for the year to March 31.

Mr Peter Griffin, the Habitat Holland general manager, is to operate stores in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague with two Dutch partners and financial backing from Bank Mees and Hope.

He said this was the first Habitat European franchise operation. Storehouse had set up in Europe, although outlets in the Far East, including Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore, were operated under franchise.

The Dutch Habitat shops were opened in 1984. Storehouse said that although the Dutch were Anglophiles, the local market, which had been supplied from Britain and France, was markedly different.

"They have colder winters and go skiing and thus need more insulating clothes for their children, and spend more on them than us - which helps to explain the problems at Mothercare - but they tend to spend less on their homes than the British. Hence the Habitat difficulties," said a spokesman.

Habitat's future expansion into the smaller European markets is expected to follow similar franchise agreements. Meanwhile, Mothercare is to concentrate on countries where it has good trading locations and substantial opportunities for expansion.

The transactions will be treated as an extraordinary item in the accounts for the year to April 2, 1988, with a charge totalling £4.5 million.

Storehouse shares gained 5p to 231p after the announcement.

## Blacks Leisure to pay £3.5m for four stores

By Cliff Feltman

Blacks Leisure, the camping and sports goods retailer, is paying £3.5 million for West 8 Sports, which has four stores trading in the London area.

West 8 Sports has warranted that net profits before tax were not less than £400,000 for the year ended February.

They have also warranted profits of £2.2 million over the next three years, with any shortfall subject to a repayment of not more than £500,000 on the purchase price.

The shops being acquired are at Brent Cross - where West 8 Sports trades as Lucas Sports - Kensington High Street, Ealing and Hounslow.

As part of the deal, Mr Anthony Spurling, managing director of West 8 Sports, is joining Blacks, taking responsibility for its retail division, which will now consist of 26 outlets.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

# No soft landing for the Dow Jones Average

Disappointing, isn't it, that the Dow Jones Industrial could not make it above the 2,000 level by the end of the first quarter? For as the Presidential election moves closer, the chances of Wall Street climbing back into its twenty-first century, let alone staying there, become less rather than greater.

There is no such thing as a normal market in a normal election year, but it would be fair to say that there was a strong body of opinion that the Dow Jones Industrial would not have a bad time in 1988. It is common practice for the Federal Reserve to fix events quite nicely for the incumbent administration, and the securities industry goes along with the hype, especially if the incumbent is Republican. But, this time, the game has just been too one-sided to be fixed, and the dreary reality of an unbalanced economy blows up and down Wall Street like the wind off the Hudson.

The market is looking forward, in a way, to greeting President Bush, but the chances are that the man who learned Reaganomics at the master's knee will be as unwilling to tackle the fiscal deficit as the current occupant of the Oval Office. The Fed will not be able to let things ride for ever, however, and some tightening of policy is inevitable after the election. But will the cure be any more comforting than the ailment?

Long before the ballot papers are counted or the voting machines cranked into action, the US Administration will have to refinance the running deficit, and the signs are that it will have to

make conditions more attractive to overseas investors, particularly the hard-savings Japanese who finance the free-spending Americans. Bond yields are likely to go up, and that hardly bodes well for Wall Street.

In a recent paper, the Thompson Twins, Peter and Jeffrey of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, advanced the view that Wall Street has the potential to go lower if bonds and the dollar weaken. Their near term target is 1,900, which would reflect the markets' eventual recognition, they say, that the recent, now defunct, rally was due to a combination of dividend washing, takeover and other stories and to second-line stock activity.

The world is waiting with trepidation for the second leg of the bear market, which began with the October 19 crash. A fall to 1,900 would not, in the view of the BZW strategists, be the making of such a second leg. They maintain that the Dow would have to move closer to its crash level, and they do not see that as a near term possibility.

The second leg is more likely to appear this time next year. By then the Presidential honeymoon will be over and it will be clear that the new administration, like the old, will not properly tackle the problem of the dual deficit. The dollar will be coming under pressure and bond yields will have to move up to attract foreign capital. "These are the classic symptoms of another market crash. There is no soft landing for the US equity market."

Yet when it happens, it will catch everyone by surprise.

## Treasury and Bank feed exchange rate confusion

If you want a strong, free market, anti-inflationary pound, then you can have one. That may not have been the Chancellor's intended message to the markets when he presented his evidence to the Treasury and Civil Service Committee late on Wednesday, but that was certainly the effect he had yesterday.

The pound, having left DM3 behind early in March, yesterday put some distance between itself and DM3.10, closing 2.5 pence above that level. The next staging post in the markets is DM3.15.

Against a weak dollar, the two-dollar pound has again become a possibility. Yesterday sterling nudged up to \$1.89. It will only take a bout of Japanese-inspired dollar weakness, and further sterling strength, to take us up towards those 1980-81 levels for sterling.

The Chancellor was said to be furious with the Prime Minister for making comments before the Budget which added to the pound's strength. Presumably he was a little cross with himself yesterday.

There are two ways of looking at what the authorities are doing. The first is that they are setting up a bear trap for the speculators by allowing it to rise far enough for its upward momentum to fade naturally, at which point the Bank of England would zoom in with some large-scale intervention.

This would at least show that the Chancellor was not reading from last year's notes when he told the Treasury Committee that exchange rate stability was still an important objective. But, given the pound's strength yesterday, such a tactic would probably only work when the markets have turned bearish on sterling of their own accord.

The second possibility is that the Chancellor, having been forced to

accept the pound's rise and, indeed, publicly acquiesce in it, will now seek to show that, if anybody ever doubted his anti-inflation credentials, they had better watch out.

So, exchange rate stability is re-defined as allowing it to rise, but not too fast, industry is squeezed, and the Chancellor, at some stage over the next few months, starts to talk in terms of achieving zero inflation.

The fact that these two can exist alongside one another means that the Treasury and the Bank have at least achieved one of their intended aims - sowing confusion about exchange rate policy.

The rise in the pound has been good for the gilt market, although it has not always been clear from the market's reaction. If it is to become enshrined as part of a new battle against inflation, then that - in combination with a sizeable "surplus" on the public sector borrowing requirement - looks like a dream ticket for gilts.

Even if the pound is reined back, it is clear that its new permitted range - although we do not talk about such things - is higher than the old one, which again is good for inflation and the gilt market. The main danger arises from the potential for damage to be done to sterling by more poor trade figures. The Chancellor left himself room for a significant upward revision of the forecast current account deficit this year, in his evidence.

For the equity market, the position is rather less happy. It would lose, alongside the gilt market, from a sterling and base rate crisis. And it will continue to lose out if the pound's rise continues to eat into corporate profits. Lower inflation will be good for equities in the long-term. In the short-term, it may mean a little pain.

## Acorn sinks to £3.2m deficit

By Alison Eadie

Acorn Computer Group, once the darling of the USM and now 80 per cent owned by Olivetti, sank into loss again last year with a pretax deficit of £3.2 million, against a previous profit of £1 million. Turnover fell to £36.1 million from £46.7 million.

The custom systems division was the main problem, making a £2 million trading loss and incurring £400,000 of closure costs last November. The benefits of the closure are already being reaped in savings on overheads.

Acorn's core business in education, training, science and research broke even at operating level. Investment costs of launching the new Archimedes range of personal work stations held back profits. The Archimedes came on stream late in the year and is now selling very well.

It sells at less than £1,000. The company says it has a great deal of power for the price, does excellent graphics, has interface abilities with other areas like video and music studios, and is easy for the non-computer literate to use. It can emulate all the previous BBC Master Series machines, ensuring the software will not become obsolete.

Acorn hopes to be back in profit this year.



Senior executives: (from left) Roland Smith, chairman, Don McFarlane, chief executive and Michael Westcott, financial director, yesterday (Photograph by Peter Trievnor)

## Dispute hits Senior profits

By Colin Campbell

Senior Engineering Group, the heat treatment, thermal engineering and construction services company, says the 13-month disruption of production at its Sale, Greater Manchester, factory as the result of an industrial dispute cost the group £1.22 million in the 1987 financial year.

Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, said that the dispute was now behind the group, and added that but for the exceptional charge net earnings would have shown a more substantial advance.

The group yesterday disclosed pretax profits, after taking the £1.22 million charge into account, of £9.26 million (£7.62 million) on a turnover that rose from £104.1 million to £144.1 million.

Senior made a one-for-three rights issue during the year, and issued shares for various acquisitions, the net effect of which was to hold back the growth in net earnings per share to a 3 per cent advance.

A final dividend of 1.29p a

share was declared, making 2.20p (2p) for the year. The shares were 2p easier at 54p yesterday.

Professor Smith said it had been an active year, with seven acquisitions, but declined to detail how much the new companies had contributed to the pretax profits line.

The group had started the 1988 financial year with a strong order book in most areas, he added.

Times, page 26

## Evode purchases Italian TPE firm

By Our City Staff

Evode, the adhesives manufacturer, is spending up to £9.36 million on buying SOF.TER, an Italian producer of thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) compounds for the shoe industry and general industrial use.

Evode is initially taking a 25.1 per cent stake for £1.74 million cash. A vendor placing of 3.85 million new shares will raise £5.79 million, which will partly finance the £6.05 million cost of a further 69.9 per cent of the Italian company.

Payment for the outstanding 5 per cent will be related to profits this year and next, but will not exceed £1.57 million. Evode said it had been looking for an acquisition to expand its existing plastics division and extend its product and market bases. This purchase would widen its involvement in TPE compounds - synthetic rubbers - and in the Italian market.

SOF.TER was established in 1980 and pretax profits last year reached £1.04 million.

## Consortium lifts offer for Epic

By Our City Staff

The consortium bidding for Estates Property Investment Company (Epic) raised its offer last night in a last-ditch attempt to persuade Peachey Property Corporation, the rival bidder, to withdraw.

Giltvite, the consortium headed by Mr Stephen Wingate, lifted its terms by 5p a share to 270p, valuing Epic at about £65 million. This compares with the 260p offer from Peachey which has been declared final.

Giltvite speaks for 27 per

cent of Epic while Peachey has a 33 per cent stake.

Last night Mr Wingate - who has the backing of the Epic board for his bid - said: "We've decided to offer another 5p to get this out of the way. Peachey stands to make a good profit on the deal."

But Mr John Brown, the Peachey managing director, said: "We are happy to remain in Epic as substantial minority shareholders." Peachey's offer closes on April 12.

## Saudi role in BCCI

The Saudi Arabia-owned National Commercial Bank is, I hear, expected to assume a more active role in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International following the recent heart transplant operation on BCCI's founder and president, Agha Hasan Abedi, at Harefield Hospital in Middlesex. The Jeddah-based National Commercial Bank, which is owned by Sheikh Mahfouz's family and is one of the largest banks in Saudi Arabia, already has a sizeable stake in BCCI. The bank is represented on BCCI's board by Sheikh Khalid bin Salim bin Mahfouz, a prominent member of Sheikh Mahfouz's rich and influential family, and also international relations manager of the National Commercial Bank. The Saudi bank took over the shares in BCCI previously owned by Bank of America and some prominent Arab tycoons, but has always - until now, that is - maintained a low profile. Similarly tight-lipped, neither BCCI nor Harefield Hospital has so far issued a statement on Abedi's close friends say he is "improving" after the surgery.

The London borough of Ealing, which increased its share by more than 60 per cent last year, is rewarding its residents with, of all things, a restaurant in its international cuisine in its new wheels service for the elderly. Senior citizens in Ealing, I am told, can now order a curry on Mondays and a chicken in Southall.

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Building a nude image

Marley, the building products group, has been priding itself on the award won by a stand belonging to Nottingham Brick, its new subsidiary, at a recent trade exhibition in Glasgow. "There was not a real brick on display," says Marley chief executive George Russell. "Instead, we commissioned various artists to paint pictures incorporating bricks

to stress the point that design and fashion are essential keys to this industry. The stand was one of the most popular at the show." Those who saw the stand, however, are wondering whether the crowds around it were attracted less by the stylish designs and more by one of the paintings - of an alluring nude, appropriately depicted sitting on a brick.

### Pound wise

Scottish Heritable Trust managing director Robin Garland need not worry about the depth of his management team. His profit incentive scheme, designed to give managers a share in everything earned by their divisions over and above the 20 per cent return on assets demanded by head office, produced an un-

expected response from one of his team. "He said he would write down the capital of his subsidiary to £1, pay us the (parent company) off and borrow from the bank at half the rate we were asking," Garland recalls. "So we had to build a gearing element into the equation." Had his protégé's ingenuity merited promotion? "Not yet, but we're keeping a close eye on him," Garland says.

### Prez's des res

Some 20 or so friends of President Reagan have apparently clubbed together to buy him and Nancy a \$2.5 million retirement home in Bel Air, Los Angeles. Standing in one and a quarter acres, with views of the Pacific Ocean, the house has three bedrooms and six bathrooms, two of them off the master suite. "It's a very conservative and tasteful house," says local estate agent John Aaron. "There's nothing ostentatious about it."



"Cuckoo call - Footsie fall"

## Winners and losers

"You can't satisfy all of the people, all of the time." So says an exasperated Lord Boardman, the chairman of NatWest Bank. The ongoing debate between him and his shareholders in *The Times City Diary* as to whether its 16p final dividend should be paid on April 5 or 6 - before or after the new tax year - has now been further complicated by one of his employees. In a letter to me he complains that, despite a request to the chief executive to delay payment for a month, profit-sharing and discretionary payments were still paid to staff on March 18 - thus incurring the old, higher, rate of income tax. Upon reading Tom Boardman's argument that a number of other major shareholders and charities would lose out if the dividend payment were delayed a day, to April 6 - thus being able to claim back only 25 per cent tax instead of 27 per cent - the said employee quips, good-naturedly: "As a member of the bank's staff and a shareholder, I feel most virtuous, if somewhat poorer." Final word from Boardman: "Perhaps they'd all like to complain to the Chancellor for reducing income tax."

From the most appropriate name of the week to the most inappropriate... at the Barclays Bank branch opposite Cannon Street station, I am told, a cashier by the name of Miss Lawless.

Carol Leonard

## Recruiting drive to deal with patents after 1992

Munich (Reuters) - The European Patent Office, which grants patent rights for inventions, is planning to take on another 350 staff to cope with the soaring workload expected when European Economic Community-wide rules come into force in 1992.

Set up in Munich in 1977, the EPO processes about 50,000 patent applications a year.

Mr Paul Braendli, the EPO president, said an EEC patent treaty should come into operation in 1992, enabling applicants to obtain a single "community patent" valid in all member countries. "We will have to employ a lot more people to cope with this development," he said.

Medical equipment, optics, semiconductor and computer technology are all areas with great potential for further inventions, Mr Braendli said.

The EPO expects the number of patent applications to rise to at least 70,000 a year in the 1990s, increasing to some 120,000 annually by the beginning of the 21st century.

The EPO plans to hire 350 more people this year, increasing its workforce at the Munich headquarters, a branch in The Hague and a sub-office in West Berlin to 2,700. By the end of the 1990s the EPO could employ up to 3,700 people.

The advantage of the EPO is that it can grant patent protection to individuals and firms in more than one of the organization's 13 member

countries, Mr Braendli said.

An inventor can apply either to the EPO straight away or restrict himself initially to a patent for his own country.

Within the next 12 months the inventor can decide whether to make an application to the EPO for wider patent rights.

The EPO includes Britain, Austria, Belgium, France,

the more applications we expect from smaller industry," he said.

Mr Braendli said national patent offices still had a role to play, although the number of patent applications for a single country was declining.

He said national offices were likely to become more involved in providing information to the public rather than granting patents.

"National patents could still be sufficient for small inventions which don't need protection in many countries," he said. "A national patent would be cheaper."

The EPO co-operates with the patent offices of the United States and Japan.

China, which opened a patent office in 1985 modelled on western systems, also co-operates with the EPO, exchanging patent documents and information.

"The Chinese office is a sign that China has recognized the fact that technological and industrial development needs a good patent system," said Mr Braendli.

The establishment of the office is part of China's opening to western business. Between 1985 and February 1987, 10,358 patent applications were filed by foreigners in China out of a total of nearly 36,000, the EPO said.

Funded exclusively from patent fees, the EPO has an annual budget of about DM520 million (£167 million).

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## Rating cut for Marine Midland

From Stephen Leather  
Hong Kong

Standard and Poor's, the international rating agency, has downgraded \$2 billion (£1.07 billion) of debt at Marine Midland, the New York-based bank owned by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Standard and Poor's has cut the bank's senior debt from A-plus to A-minus, preferred stock from A-minus to BBB-plus and commercial paper from A-one-plus to A-one, saying its capital structure had weakened because of Third World loans.

The agency has also reduced the rating of Marine's certificates of deposit from A-plus to A and letters of credit from A-one-plus to A-one.

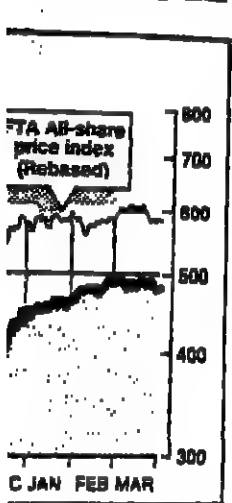
Mr John Gray, the finance director of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, said the downgrading was unjustified, and added that the parent bank did not intend to inject any more capital into Marine Midland.

"The rating agencies have their own rules," he said. "It's not a problem for us. We don't think Marine needs more capital."

Standard and Poor's put Marine Midland on its watch list in February, after the bank reported a net loss of \$409 million for 1987, compared with a 1986 profit of \$145 million.

The bank had to make special provisions of \$600 million for Third World debts.

## Now of fear growth



ould have to be assigning at least 75 per cent of the votes and altering the rules of association being guaranteed that it succeed.

past Amersham's is linked with the ICI and Fisons in the Pfizer and Abbotts U.S. The name of e has also been mentioned as a possible suitor.

ers in the market at Wellcome has al-riated out a feasibility study of the chances of a big bid. Amersham would good catch for Well-ich has been leading against. Aids.

is rumoured that the of such a bid has met n from some mem-ber Wellcome board; finished the day 8p 144p.

ase remained a firm climbing another 6p after deciding to its Habitat Mo-husness in Holland, s been operating at a

this week there was it had received an for its British Home subsidiary. Dealers ext, which has just a sparkling new, claim Next is in need floor space and may be forced to hit the ion trail. The rumours ough to chip 5p from 261p.



He added that the company's target is earnings per share growth of a least 10 per cent a year. In 1987, Westinghouse earned \$5.12 a share on sales of \$10.68 billion, off from \$10.73 billion in 1986.

[illegible]

King index gained 11.04 points to 1,669.99. Turnover was HK\$668.12 million against HK\$892 million on Wednesday.

[illegible]

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non-executive director from June 15.

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Continued from page 31

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David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, looks at the ever-changing face of the England coach

# Promoting inspiration in the ranks

One of the first things Alan Davies did after becoming the latest in a line of England coaches which has been augmented far too rapidly over the last three years, was to telephone one of his predecessors, Martin Green.

Since 1985, when Richard Greenwood announced that he would not be available to take New Zealand with England, coaching personnel have come and gone like actors in a French farce. Green took over with Brian Ashton as his assistant; then Ashton withdrew and Des Seabrook emerged. Since the World Cup last year both Green and Seabrook have retreated to the wings and Geoff Cooke and Roger Uttley have taken over the preparation of the national side.

Now Uttley has left the stage — possibly temporarily — and Cooke's role as manager of the forthcoming England tour to Australia will not allow him time for coaching, hence the appointment of Davies and David Robinson, who have enjoyed such success this season with England's B XV.

Part of that success has been the ability of Davies to draw upon the experience of others, including the players with whom he is associated; hence his eagerness to contact Green, who knows Australian conditions after his World Cup experience last year.

Davies was preparing his Trent College side for the national schools seven when the coaching appointments were announced. "I'll lose my job if the side doesn't get through to the second day," he said. It was a joke. Davies, aged 43, has been delighted and relieved by the support he has had from the school where he has been a staff member for the last 13 years.

"The first thing the head did was suggest ways in which I could tailor my job as head of the school's PE centre and a mathematics teacher so as to find time for the tour. And the boys have been great, they're really chuffed about it."

Davies's appointment, and that of Robinson, aged 44, a Cockerham farmer, brings a wealth of common sense and hard-won experience to the coaching roles. Neither played international rugby, although Robinson toured the Far East with England in 1971 — but then, neither Alan Jones nor his assistant, Alec Evans, represented Australia, and their success with the Wallabies over the last three years has been unparalleled.

Davies, whose family is from Ynyssylwyl and who joined the RAF before going to Loughborough University as a mature student, played stand-off half for centre for Nottingham, whom he then coached



Davies: shrewd psychologist

for nearly 10 years. He took over the Midlands divisional side from Green before his appointment last season to the B team. Robinson played for Carlisle and Birkenhead Park before seven fruitful years, alongside Uttley, in Gosforth's back row, he played in two cup-winning sides, in 1976 and 1977, and took Gosforth back to Twickenham in his one year as club coach, in 1981.

Neither has visited Australia before, but Davies has kept in touch with Steve Holdstock, the Nottingham wing who moved there two years ago and who now plays for Manly alongside Clive Woodward, the former Leicester and England centre. "I shall get in touch with

Steve and Clive before we leave, but I honestly believe we tend to underestimate ourselves in this country, particularly our backs," he said.

"Steve has told me he introduced Manly to some of the things we had been doing at Nottingham for years and they hadn't seen anything like them. And he turned out to be their top try-scorer in his first season. What I hope we can do is turn out an integrated side, forwards and backs. I'm sure we have the forwards to do well in Australia and England showed against Ireland that the backs can play, although I'm desperately sorry that Halliday and Ott won't be coming with us."

Davies has a shrewd psychological approach, exemplified by the decision before the B international against France in January to ask his players which they thought was the best rucking side in the world. Predictably they said New Zealand. So he showed them film of the Bledisloe Cup match last summer between Australia and New Zealand, in which the All Blacks set up a ruck on their centre and, thanks to a touch kick from Fox, the stand-off, achieved a net gain of five metres.

Another example showed New Zealand doing the same thing, with the result that their centre had a drop-kick at goal charged down.

Then Davies showed the players film of the England B side in the trial this season, setting up ruck ball and then bringing in Barley for a switch with Andrew which brought a try.

"Now who's the best rucking side?" he asked. It was a confidence trick, of course, but a sense of self-confidence has been the hallmark of the B team throughout this season. Robinson, too, has played an important role in self-encouraging; he was a stand-off at centre at school and college, then played prop before Cumberland invited him to play flanker, then an unfamiliar position. "I was too small to batter my way through people so I tried to beat them, and when I tackled them, I tried to make sure I also got the ball. That's an area where I hope I can offer something," he said.

Nothing has yet been decided about the length of the present coaching appointments. Robinson may find it difficult to give more time than he already has as the North's divisional coach; Uttley, clearly, has only limited time at his disposal away from his teaching post at Harrow.

For Davies, however, this is the culmination of a more structured coaching career and if there is to be continuity until the 1991 World Cup, success for him in Australia could have far-reaching effects.

## RUGBY UNION

# A month still to go but everything is quiet on the western front

By Gerald Davies

So, what could be said of a week in which Cardiff played Newport and hardly anybody knew (and fewer still seemed to care), and Neath scored 37 points against Llanelli, the team they meet in a cup final which is expected to draw the biggest crowd ever for the occasion. Admittedly, the silly season, as annually interpreted, is still quiet, some way off. But in Welsh rugby terms, this tendency has an increasing habit of stealing a march on the rest of the country. It comes around just about now.

The main business for the winter is over, but there are five weeks still to go before the season comes to an end. While there remains a good deal of fluttering about the remaining fixtures, no one thinks them consequential.

As with Any Other Business, people are already chattering about other things and probably thinking of their lunches. New Zealand, the main course, is already in the mind, and there are fingers crossed, with a change of menu, for the summer's cricket and Glamorgan's centenary year.

## Looking to the future

England will play a first international at under-21 level next year, when they meet Romania in a curtain-raiser to the senior international between the two countries in Bucharest (David Hands writes). The game will be played on May 13, 1989, and England also plan a three-match tour to Spain later that month.

The under-21 concept already flourishes in Scotland and Wales but is in its infancy in England. This is the first season of a full county championship at this age, the final of which will precede the John Player Special Cup final at Twickenham on April 30.

A divisional championship is also planned for the end of this season, from which the best players will be chosen to go forward to the RFU's summer school at Trent College. This is all part of a four-year plan.

Fixtures from here on have a limp and featureless look about them; matches postponed from the season have now to be fulfilled with little hanging on the result. Others have been arranged to take advantage of the light evenings and to ensure that everyone has had his fill, not to say his money's worth, come closing time.

This is the humdrum time; time for candy-dough rugby. Not that there is anything wrong with candy-floss. But you cannot take too much of it at any one time. Large, fluffy, shapeless and ultimately cloying, it is not something that can be taken seriously. Not that rugby should always be taken seriously, if at all. But there is an imbalance at the Welsh season's end.

After all the intense bitter and sweet times that have gone before, April is a gruelling month of winding down, of unnecessary commitment which gives the feeling, as the crowds dwindle, that rugby has outstayed its welcome. The bright players, if they so wish, will have taken themselves off elsewhere. The lucky ones will

have accepted invitations to Hong Kong, Bermuda, Monte Carlo and Sydney.

A structured league, given time, would retain a measure of interest throughout this period. This would be increasingly so in England and will ultimately take its toll on Welsh rugby's fixture lists.

We want to choose who we want to play, the independent, though not moving, spirit claims among the senior clubs. On Monday, Cardiff played Newport for the fourth time this season, just as they did in the old days. But on the day after the Welsh party to go to New Zealand was announced, the game held over from a previous year — an obligation to fulfil and so improve the balance sheet — then it can hardly be said to have succeeded. The crowd was tiny.

If, being an amateur game, it was designed for the players, then does a player want to play so often against the same team? This may not be the exception which proves the point, but it does convey the mood against leagues.

Pressure, the catch-all excuse, would prove too much if a league structure were to be introduced, so the none-too-persuasive argument lingers. But that, as the players could point out, is far preferable to the labouring, deadweight of replaying the same fixture or having too many meaningless ones.

And how meaningful was Tuesday night's game between Llanelli and Neath. In this instance a big crowd did turn up, but the players did not. At least not those who give a recognizable shape to the respective teams. Neath had retained only eight and Llanelli six of those who played the previous Saturday. This was the third occasion they had met this season; the cup final will be the fourth.

John Morris, secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said yesterday that he had seriously considered withdrawing from the American's corner at the end of the eighth round to the referee, Dave Parris, when Tate accused Quarles of illegal use of the thumb — for the third time.

"I'd had enough," Morris said. "I couldn't see anything wrong and the referee was right not to act. So I went to the corner and warned them that if they did not stop, I would stop their money."

Tate, aged 33, and a grotesque caricature of the man who once held the greatest prize in the sport, lost by just half a point over 10 rounds. However, despite the closeness of the decision, many thought he should not have been in the ring. Quarles, 4st 4lb lighter and eight years younger, hailed the fact that he had inflicted a rare defeat on Tate but the contest suggested rather that by losing to a man he would surely have destroyed four years ago. Tate

was ill-advised to make a comeback in 1986 after winning a battle against cocaine addiction.

Morris said that Tate had been given the go-ahead only after the most detailed physical examination. "He had a skull X-ray, brain scan and a special check from the chief medical officer. All his documents were in order, including his medical papers. There is no way he would have been allowed into the ring if he had not been fit enough. He lasted the 10 rounds well, he entertained and the crowd seemed to enjoy it. Whether he should continue boxing is entirely up to him. I saw him afterwards and he was OK."

There will be 16 foreign competitors, and the fiercest competition is in the men's foil section, which includes four junior champions from Denmark and a six-man team from Portugal to challenge the No. 1 seed, Donnie McKenzie, from Meadowbank. Top épée seeds will be Hugh Kernohan and Mike Corish, both from London

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## ATHLETICS

# Untold riches to be gleaned from half an hour on the road

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Bali

The debate on equal prize-money for sportswomen (particularly in tennis) will take an interesting turn if Liz McColgan wins the 10-kilometre road race here on Sunday faster than her time of 30min 59sec, which is accepted in United States running circles as the world's best. For such a performance would net McColgan about £265,000.

## Boston Marathon still the target for Jones

Steve Jones, Britain's fastest marathon runner, will run the Newport 10-mile road race tomorrow, his final competition before leaving for the United States, where he runs in the Boston Marathon on April 18. Jones has made a late decision to run at Newport, to compensate for dropping out of the Fleet half-marathon last Sunday. He flies out to the United States on Tuesday, competes in the Ekiden relay in New York on April 9, then in Boston nine days later.

His coach, Alan Warner, said yesterday he had no doubt Jones would run in Boston. "What caused him to drop out of the Fleet race is a bit of a mystery. He has had a couple of cold training sessions since and as far

as I am concerned he is on course to run in Boston." How well Jones runs there will determine whether he is selected to represent Britain at the Seoul Olympics. Steve Jones, despite suffering from a slight Achilles tendon problem, expects to run in the northern road relay championship at Silkeston, Sunderland, tomorrow, and then in the General Portfolios Newcastle City road race, over 5,000 metres, on Wednesday. Also scheduled to take part in that race are Jack Buckner, the European 5,000 metres champion, Mike McLeod, the Olympic 10,000 metres silver medal winner, and Dave Lewis, the former national cross-country champion.

## Britain have last chance for points

Great Britain play their final match in the Champions Trophy tournament here today against West Germany, who must win to have a chance of regaining the title they held for the past two years. It is Great Britain's last chance to achieve a victory or at least a draw to earn a point which they came close to doing in Wednesday's match against Pakistan.

If they lose it will not be the first time a British team has finished last in this event without a point. It happened at Karachi in 1980, but Britain had earlier won the bronze medal here and again at Karachi in 1984 and the silver in Perth (Australia) in 1985.

Despite these achievements, the British management view the present tournament as a training ground for the Olympic Games rather than anything else. But even allowing for injuries at home and unavailability of certain leading players, the opportunity to select a stronger side for the Champions Trophy seems to have been missed.

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## CANOEING

# Devizes is no laughing matter

By Mick Cleary

Travelling from Devizes to Westminster by canoe is an extreme way of avoiding the M4 snarl-ups on Easter weekend, but that is the intention of more than 600 hardy souls who today set out for the fortieth time in this annual event considered to be the toughest non-stop race of its kind in the world.

Competitors will range from crack SAS entries to the ever-green British eccentrics living out their Jerome K Jerome idyll. The fantasy will probably end after about a mile when they encounter the Aintree weir and Kennet and Avon canal and feel the slime oozing down their necks.

The race, in fact, is not for the casual whacky sports nuts. The course snakes 125 miles and includes 71 portages, a quiet term for a back-breaking haul out of the water and then anything up to a three-quarters of a mile jog along the bank to clear the lock, weir or whatever. The organizers estimate 4-1 against new crews completing.

For those who do complete, the ultimate target is the course record of 15hr 34min set in 1979 by Brian Greenham and Tim Cornish. For the last three years there has also been a simpler class which takes place over four days with overnight stops at Newbury, Marlow and Ham.

Now that there is to be an international world marathon championship for the first time in Nottingham this July, it is hoped that eventually singles competitors may have enough experience to tackle the Devizes-Westminster in one go.

It is all a far cry from the origins of the race - a Scout stunt to raise funds by canoeing and camping along the canal and then on to the Thames. The first crew in 1948 took almost 28 hours.

The obstacles are seemingly infinite - the distance, the weather and even barge swans. Many an unsuspecting paddler has been capsized by an irate pen on the water.

With the recent heavy rainfall, conditions are likely to be good with fast times expected especially in the ladies' section, in which the record of 20hr 46min was set by a team of four.

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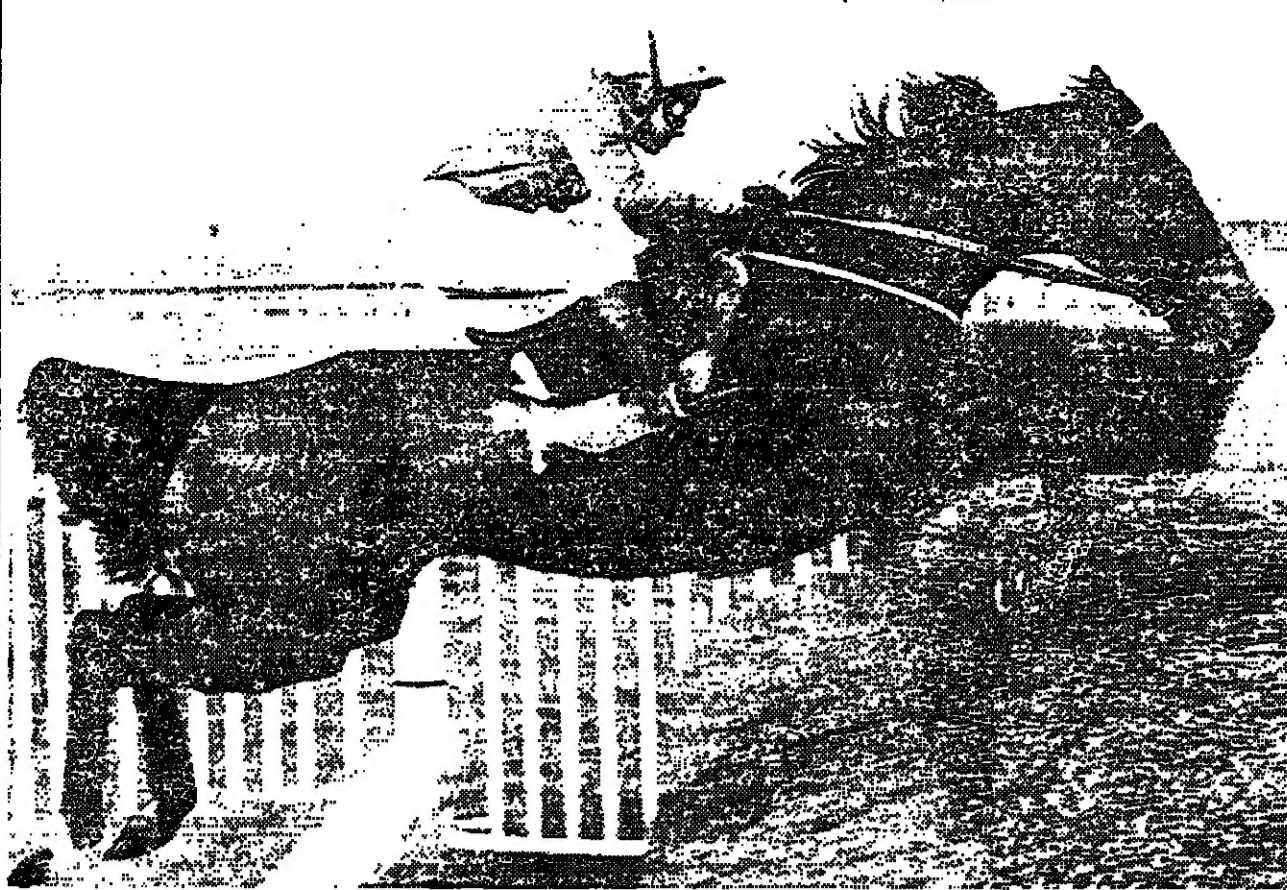
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## RACING: WALWYN'S 11-YEAR-OLD SWITCHES TO CHIVAS REGAL CHASE



Fulke Walwyn's Contradeal, who heads for the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown after his Aintree attempt

# Contradeal misses the Aintree spectacular

By Christopher Goulding

Contradeal, who was quoted at 3-1 for the Grand National, Aintree, will miss the Aintree spectacular after he was pulled up on the 11th of the 12 runners in the Chivas Regal Chase next Thursday, the opening day of the Liverpool meeting.

The three mile one furlong contest, run over the Midway course, is also pencilled in for Kildimo.

Contradeal, who was taken out of the Cheltenham Gold Cup due to the testing conditions, will take on Desert Orchid. They are both likely to clash again in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park, on April 23.

A spokesman for Walwyn said yesterday morning: "Contradeal will be prepared for Sandown's Whitbread Gold Cup after he has run at Liverpool. We consider him to be a very good horse and he is a very good horse."

Walwyn will be attempting to win the Whitbread Gold Cup for an unprecedented eighth time.

Neville Crump, who gave Walwyn many a winner in his riding days, has high hopes about his runner, Repington, in this year's National.

The 77-year-old Crump said yesterday: "I hope to win another National before I die. My horse is very well. He is a fair form and was once a naughty boy, but now he is a good one."

Repington has only fallen on one occasion in his life. "I don't think the fences will bother him. He jumped round Wetherby this season when they had built the fences up very big. At that time three of my other horses ended up on the floor."

Crump, who has won the Aintree spectacular three times

of the soft ground which he cannot operate on.

Now that Guy Landau is in action with a cracked collar bone Mellor has been riding the horse in his work. "I have given him couple of racecourse gallops which he thoroughly enjoyed. I just hope the rain stops and we get some decent ground."

Mick's Star, who was a leading fancy earlier in the season, will miss the race. Mick

## Playschool test looks negative

The result of the official dope test taken on Playschool after he was pulled up when favouring in last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup will not be announced until Tuesday, but is likely to prove negative.

A Jockey Club spokeswoman said yesterday: "Although we don't expect anything from the laboratory until after the weekend, the findings are likely to prove negative. David Barons, his trainer, has been informed."

Easterly, the gelding's trainer, said: "The horse is finished for the season. He picked up a virus and has a blood disorder."

Phil Tuck, who was to have ridden Mick's Star, has yet to find a replacement.

Stan Mellor, trainer of the National favourite, Lean Ar Agaidh reports the Proverb gelding to be in fine fettle.

"He will not lack fitness despite the fact that he has had only one outing this season," he said.

"He ran very well at Kempton, in February, when second to Rhymer. I think on that occasion he blew up. I have not run him since because

of 5-2 are paid and conversely if the wage is for more than 16 runners and 25 complete then the winning bet pays 9-1.

City Index reports heavy individual support for Course Hunter, who has been laid from 100-1 down to the present price of 25-1.

Although a wage of £2,000 each-way at 25-1 has been laid on the Irish challenger Hard Case it is Sacred Path who will be City Index's biggest loser. Sacred Path is owned by British highest-paid man, the merchant banker Christopher Healey, and City Index's Barry Beasley said: "The whole of the City seems to be on this one. We've laid £1,000,000 and we had a flood of smaller wagers."

## Fortunate winner

Only four of the nine starters got round in the Jack Daniels Novices' Chase at Southwell yesterday and Boardmans Crown looked a lucky winner. He was left clear after the leader, Rodney Bay, fell at the second last, hampering his nearest pursuer, Red Colombia.

An investment on the latter is subject to whether there will be less than 14 or more than 16 runners finishing. One can choose to go above or below this range.

The difference either side represents one point per horse, i.e. if only 12 horses finish odds

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## Wentworth celebrates first win

Tracey Wentworth partnered the first winner of her career when Christmas Holly, a 7-2 chance, beat Tudor Gate by three lengths in the Achnachrair Apprentice Handicap at Hamilton Park yesterday.

Wentworth's ninth ride and she rode a waiting race. Treayron and Casual Pass were the early leaders, but Christmas Holly was always bowling along well in his favourite heavy ground, and took over to pull away easily.

"Now Christmas Holly will go over jumps at Wetherby next Tuesday," explained Keith Trevelly, representing his mother, Mary, who was landing her first success on the Flat this season.

Tyrene Williams, who collected a two-day bonus on Wednesday for excessive use of the whip, made no mistakes in the Quarry Selling Handicap and did not even have to use his whip when 7-2 chance Special Reserve scored by six lengths from the favourite, Design Wife.

Poaching the better ground after a furling, Williams was soon at the head of affairs and went away to score easily.

3-1 (m 10) 1. GOLD SCRYPT (m 10) 2-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 3-1 (m 10) 4-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 5-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 6-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 7-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 8-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 9-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 10-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 11-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 12-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 13-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 14-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 15-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 16-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 17-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 18-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 19-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 20-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 21-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 22-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 23-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 24-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 25-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 26-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 27-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 28-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 29-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 30-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 31-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 32-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 33-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 34-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 35-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 36-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 37-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 38-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 39-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 40-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 41-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 42-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 43-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 44-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 45-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 46-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 47-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 48-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 49-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 50-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 51-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 52-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 53-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 54-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 55-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 56-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 57-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 58-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 59-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 60-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 61-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 62-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 63-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 64-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 65-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 66-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 67-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 68-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 69-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 70-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 71-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 72-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 73-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 74-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 75-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 76-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 77-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 78-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 79-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 80-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 81-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 82-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 83-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 84-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 85-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 86-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 87-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 88-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 89-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 90-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 91-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 92-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 93-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 94-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 95-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 96-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 97-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 98-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 99-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 100-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 101-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 102-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 103-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 104-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 105-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 106-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 107-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 108-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 109-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 110-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 111-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 112-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 113-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 114-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 115-11-2. Special Reserve (m 10) 116-











